

ALTON

POCKET GUIDE

2022 – 2023





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WELCOME... to Alton

Alton is a warm and welcoming vibrant north Hampshire town which truly has 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, Alton is known by many as "Jane Austen Country" with its close ties to its charming neighbouring parish of Chawton – home to Jane Austen’s House Museum and Chawton Library. The largest settlement in East Hampshire, the town also has its own heritage attraction – the Mid Hants Railway Watercress Line – as well as being well known for the civil war Battle of Alton in 1643, the murder of Fanny Adams in 1867 and also home to the Allen Gallery and Curtis Museum.

Staying within the town, visitors will find a variety of shops from national chain stores to local independent retailers. When it comes to dining out and socialising, Alton offers a wide choice of cafes, restaurants, bars and quintessentially English pubs to choose from, all located within easy walking distance of the town centre.

With plenty to see and do in and around Alton, the town serves as a convenient base to explore the local area. With so many villages within a few miles of Alton, visitors can take in the breathtaking views and the rich heritage of the region, and also sample the diverse range of locally produced food and drink – which can also be experienced at the Alton Farmers’ Market every second Saturday of the month in the High Street.

Do use the QR codes throughout the guide to find out more about our wonderful town!



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All photographs used with the kind permission of Stephen Lewis and Alton Town Council.

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The Town Council would like to thank all those who assisted and submitted editorial contributions and photographs to this publication.

HISTORY OF ALTON

Alton is an historic Hampshire town at the entrance to the South Downs National Park.

Alton is steeped with a fascinating history, from the bloody Battle of Alton in the English Civil War to the literary genius of Jane Austen. With its rich heritage dating from Roman times to its association with Fanny Adams, Alton is an intriguing place to visit.

From the 13th to the 15th century Alton was a very prosperous community, mainly from weaving and the production of garments. There were a number of textile merchants situated in the town centre.

From the 18th century onward the town was well known for its manufacturing, being famous for paper making – and since 1763 for brewing (the main production site in the centre of town closing in 2015).

One of the most notable buildings is St Lawrence Church dating from the Norman Tower built in 1070, and where the main Battle of Alton took place in December 1643 between the Parliamentary and Royal Forces. Colonel Bolle, the Commander of the Royalist Forces, is understood to have been killed in the church pulpit. Bullet holes in the main church doors and stone pillars can be seen. The church also has a Norman font hewn from one piece of stone.

Near St Lawrence Church is the site of the Norman ecclesiastical headquarters. The Quakers have been instrumental in developing Alton over the years and near the Church there is 'The Friends Meeting House' built in 1672, which is the second oldest meeting house in use in the world.



Other interesting buildings include the Victorian Assembly Rooms, with the Curtis Museum and Inwood Court all in the same close. The roof spaces of all three buildings were designed by the architect Charles Barry in 1870. The war memorial known as The Cairn was erected in 1920 and contains 30 tonnes of Cornish granite.

Alton was the scene of one of the most notable Victorian tragedies – the murder of Fanny Adams in 1867. She was brutally killed by a solicitor's clerk, Frederick Baker, near Flood Meadows and her grave is in Alton Cemetery. From this event, the expression "Sweet FA" came about.



The Swan Hotel in the High Street was first mentioned in the archives in 1499 and was the stopping place for stagecoaches travelling daily from London to Winchester and Southampton. The oldest house in Alton is numbers 8 and 10 Turk Street dating from the 14th century and is still inhabited.

Several famous people have lived in Alton and the surrounding area including Jane Austen, Gilbert White, Elizabeth Gaskell, and Cardinal Newman. There are several blue heritage plaques located on buildings in Alton including the former homes of the famous folklorists Peter and Iona Opie, the botanist William Curtis, and the site of Jane Austen's brother's bank.

If you would like to find out more about the town, the buildings, the streets, Alton's history and its notable people from the past, why not join one of the Guided Tours of the town? The tours last a little over an hour, tel: 01420 85057 for further information and to book a tour. Or visit the Curtis Museum in the High Street, home to one of the finest local history collections in Hampshire.



SHOPPING IN ALTON

Alton offers a delightful mix of High Street branded stores and quirky unique independent shops.

The town centre offers several well-known household brand names which sit alongside a number of unique boutique shops selling objets d'art, jewellery, rare books, vintage and designer clothes, decorative pieces, crafts and paintings.

Despite the recent pandemic Alton has seen a flurry of new independent start-up businesses pop up in the town centre. Including the 'Alton Creatives Emporium' located in the Market Square where a collective of local artists and crafters showcase their wares and hold a regular series of creative workshops.

Another popular new addition is the eco-friendly 'Alton Fill-Up' zero waste store in the High Street. Where you can refill your own containers with household essentials including store cupboard ingredients and household products.

Others new to the High Street are 'Ritual' beauty spa, 'Heavens Kitchen', 'Carpino's Pizza' and 'Bean and Bake' sandwich shop. With 'Hun' hair and beauty in Market Street, 'Acorns' mobile café pod in the Public Gardens and 'Sugarloaf Coffee House' at Enquette in Anstey Park.

In Westbrook Walk, the pedestrianised shopping walkway, has also seen several additions including a new range of home themed stores with Westbrook Interiors, Westbrook Kitchens and Mr & Mrs Bathrooms. As well as 'Blend-it', a healthy food and juice bar with a wellness centre upstairs, and the 'Alton Community Cupboard' giving away surplus food.

Alton was historically known as a market town and today 'Southern Market Traders' still run weekly Tuesday markets in the High Street with the popular 'Hampshire Farmers Markets' and 'Alton Lions Craft Markets' on the second Saturday of each month.





The Town Council organises regular themed market events over the summer months in the Public Gardens and Christmas Markets in the Town Centre.

Alton has a range of supermarkets in the town centre including Sainsbury's, Marks and Spencer Food and Iceland - for those who enjoy local produce 'Joyce and Lucas' butchers can be found in the High Street. Slightly out of the town centre you will find Waitrose next to the train station, with Aldi, Pets at Home and Wickes on the Alton Retail Park on Mill Lane.

Alton promotes car free travel and has lots of cycle parking around the town centre which can be found on the Cycle Alton map – www.myjourneyhampshire.com/cycle/active-alton.

There are also lots of bus stops in the High Street connecting Alton with the surrounding towns and villages. Stagecoach is the main provider in the area, with bus timetables, journey planner and information available from – tel: 0871 200 2233, website: www.stagecoachbus.com

If you are travelling by car there are plenty of free short stay parking spaces along the High Street, Market Street and Turk Street. Longer stay pay and display parking is available in several well positioned car parks with good accessibility to the town centre.






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For more info www.altonlions.org.uk / www.altoncraftmarket.co.uk

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PARKS AND RECREATION

Alton has a wide variety of natural open spaces alongside formal gardens and modern sporting facilities.



There is over 150 acres of public open spaces to enjoy in Alton including Anstey Park, Jubilee Playing Fields, King's Pond, The Public Gardens, The Butts, Greenfields amenity land, Northanger play area, Windmill Hill, Barley Fields & play area and the newly refurbished Holybourne play area. As well as Flood Meadows and the newest addition to the Town Council portfolio – the lower field at Will Hall Meadow.

THE PUBLIC GARDENS

Lady Place Car Park, Alton GU34 1EN. Alton's Public Gardens in the town centre is where many events are held in the summertime and musicians perform live from the bandstand.

The large lawns are ideal for picnics, beautiful formal flower beds and an interesting variety of well-established trees and a popular play area for young children (which includes a wheelchair accessible swing and roundabout.) With refreshments available to purchase from Acorns mobile café located just inside the main gates. Public Toilets are available in the adjacent car park.

The regal looking bandstand was commissioned in 2012 by Alton Town Council to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II. Replacing the original wooden bandstand which had been built in 1935 to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of King George V.

Miss Bell's Fountain is a prominent historical feature in the garden, framed by a commemorative Parterre Rose Garden. Restoration works have seen the fountain in the gardens become a useable drinking fountain ideal for refilling water bottles on warm summers days. The fountain originally stood on the Assembly Rooms Lawn (where the Cairn is today.) It is one of a pair, with the other located on Butts Road opposite Borover Lane.

The Public Gardens is also home to Alton Bowls Club and features an outdoor bowling green and clubhouse which has been leased to the Alton Bowling Club since 1954.





FLOOD MEADOWS AND WILL HALL MEADOW

The two areas are separated by New Odiham Road, with the river connecting Flood Meadows with Alton's newest open space and the northern source of the River Wey – Will Hall Meadow.

With fifteen acres of relaxing open space only 100 yards from the town centre, Flood Meadows is a great place for a lunchtime picnic or scenic stroll along the 'Wey Walk'. Featuring a combination of semi-wild conservation areas, open green areas, tree lined footpaths and a riverside walk next to the disused watercress beds.

Both sites are easily accessible with several footpath entrances into the sites, the closest pay and display car park being Bank Car Park, Vicarage Hill, Alton GU34 1HT.

KING'S POND

Ashdell Road, Alton GU34 2TA. King's Pond is a conservation area close to the town centre that supports a range of wildlife, birds, and wildflowers, please note fishing is not permitted. A lovely place to enjoy nature with a variety of waterfowl and birds to spot along the circular route around the water's edge. There are several benches along the route where you can stop to take in the views across the pond and picnic benches on the top lawn. There is a small free car park for visitors to the pond, but this can become full at busy times.



WINDMILL HILL

A large public open space comprising of approximately 25 acres, with mown footpaths through the long grass meadows and a copse of trees at the summit of the hill. The site is popular with dog walkers and local families alike, with natural carved wooden seats and logs ideal for a rest to take in the stunning panoramic views towards the Selborne Hanger and over the town. Windmill Hill is one of the 'Six Hills of Alton' which form part of a popular circular walk around Alton. Several footpaths enter the site, the most popular entrance being through the kissing gate located off Salisbury Close, Alton GU34 2TG.

ANSTEY PARK

Anstey Lane, Alton, GU34 2NB. Anstey Park spans some 32 acres of open space and is used for a variety of functions and events. Including the provision of rugby and football pitches, community courts used for a variety of sports including netball, tennis and basketball and a fitness trim trail.

Anstey Skate Park is a concrete skatepark made up of a large quarter-pipe ramp to ledge, hubba, roll-in ramp which is adjacent to a smaller quart ramp and a set of ledges located off to the side of the main area.



Other facilities include a children's play area, the Finimore Pavilion and Energique Health Club & Spa which is also home to Sugarloaf Coffee House and Olivia Grayce Hair, beauty and wellness centre.

A variety of clubs are located within the park: Alton Football Club which features a full size 3G facility, Alton Rugby Club, the Royal British Legion, the Scouts, the Army and Air Cadets.

JUBILEE PLAYING FIELDS and ALTON SPORTS CENTRE

Chawton Park Road, Alton GU34 1ST. Jubilee Playing Fields is used primarily for football in the autumn and winter, then transformed for cricket during the spring and summer months.

Jubilee Skate Park is a concrete plaza style skatepark with a mini ramp to one side, built in February 2020. The plaza section features a back and forth between quarter pipes, with features including ledges, rails, banks, manual pags and 360 rollovers split over three levels across the park.

There are two sports pavilions located at each end of the Jubilee Playing Fields: The Harry Baker Pavilion and The Charles Read Pavilion. Several clubs are located nearby including Alton Cardiac Rehab, Alton Tennis Club, Chawton Park Indoor Bowls, and the Guides & Brownies headquarters.

Next to Jubilee Fields is Alton Sports Centre. The new £20 million state of the art centre replaced the previous facility with superb new facilities and a fantastic range of activities including: a hi-tech six-lane main pool, learner pool, large gym, group cycling studio, group fitness studios, a clip and climb wall, café, children's soft play, and the Chawton Park Spa. For more information, to join or to book activities visit www.everyoneactive.com or call (01420) 540040.

ACTIVE ALTON

An Alton Town Council campaign with the aim to inform residents about all the opportunities for physical activity and exercise in and around Alton.

There is an enormous number of exercise and physical activity opportunities available in and around Alton. Here you will find over 70 different sporting clubs and organisations and some 20 or so venues which host them. There is something for everyone from Archery to Zumba, Bowls to Walking Groups, Dance Classes to Kickboxing.

Pick up a copy of the printed directory from the Town Council or visit the website for the most up to date information and links to all the groups – www.altonevents.co.uk/active-alton



ALTON EVENTS

Alton and the surrounding villages host a wide range of events with something for everyone.

Alton Town Council organise and support a variety of events in the town. Including one of the most diverse and longest Walking Festivals in the UK taking place over the entire month of May as well as an Autumn Walking Festival in October. Alton is a destination town for walkers, and the host for the 2022 annual 'Walkers are Welcome' national gathering.

The Town Council also offers a variety of themed markets in the Public Gardens over the summer and Christmas Markets in the Market Square supporting and showcasing local independent crafters, artists, charities, and community groups.

New for 2022 the Town Council is staging 'Live from the Bandstand' a series of brass band concerts on Sunday summer afternoons in the Public Gardens. Plus 'Live from the Square' where young local musicians are given the opportunity to showcase their talents as part of a series of free to attend concerts.

Alton is the hometown of Jane Austen, every June the town is transformed for Alton Regency Week. A literary festival celebrating the world-renowned female author who lived in the neighbouring village of Chawton.

The town is also well-known for its love of vintage and heritage transportation events. It is the home of the Mid-Hants Railways, Watercress Line heritage railway.

Which offers a variety of themed events from 'War on the line', 'Day out with Thomas' and even a record-breaking festive 'Illuminated Steam Train'.

In July Alton hosts one of Britain's biggest annual Bus Rallies & Running Days at Anstey Park, with a large display of Buses and Coaches of all shapes and sizes from a variety of eras.

The Alton Classic Car Show is held each September, when the whole town centre is filled with classic, vintage, American and military vehicles complimented by an eco-friendly electric vehicle display.

There are so many events held locally it is impossible to list them all here including village fetes, community picnics, music festivals, art exhibitions, charity fun runs and tribute nights.

Alton is very lucky to have its own community radio station where they feature local events, you can listen to Wey Valley Radio on 101.1 FM in Alton and the surrounding area, and online via www.weyvalleyradio.uk.

For more information on the events listed above and the full 'what's on' calendar for in and around Alton please visit the Town Council's dedicated events website – www.altonevents.co.uk



DAYS OUT

There is plenty to see and do with many local attractions in and around Alton.



LOCAL ATTRACTIONS AND DAYS OUT

- **Allen Gallery (Hampshire Cultural Trust)** – Church Street, Alton GU34 2BW. Free Admission. The Allen Gallery is an intimate setting for one of the south's most outstanding collections of ceramics. The gallery hosts a wide variety of temporary exhibitions, as well as a regular programme of events and activities. www.hampshireculture.org.uk/allen-gallery
- **Curtis Museum** – High Street, Alton GU34 1BA. Free admission. The Curtis Museum in Alton is home to one of the finest local history collections in Hampshire. Permanent exhibitions include a rare Roman enamel cup, the 1643 Battle of Alton and the notorious tale of Sweet Fanny Adams. www.hampshireculture.org.uk/curtis-museum
- **Mid Hants Railway, Watercress Line** – Platform 3, Alton Station, Station Road, Alton GU34 2PZ. Enjoy a great day out for all the family, with plenty of activities included in the ticket price. With themed experiences throughout the year including the Illuminated steam train, Day out with Thomas and War on the Line. www.watercressline.co.uk
- **Jane Austen's House Museum** – Winchester Road, Chawton, Alton GU34 1SD. It was in this cottage that Jane Austen revised, wrote, and had published six of her novels. See the rooms where she composed her books, explore her home, discover objects that belonged to her and wander in the beautiful cottage garden. www.janeaustens.house



- **Chawton House and Gardens** – Chawton, Alton, Hampshire GU34 1SJ. Discover the 'Great House' referred to in Jane Austen's letters, now sensitively restored, relax in the peace and tranquillity of the gardens. With a varied events programme, including evening talks, music recitals and international conferences. www.chawtonhouse.org
- **Lasham Gliding Heritage Centre** – Lasham Airfield, The Avenue, Alton GU34 5SS. Situated at Lasham Airfield (the largest gliding club in the world), the Gliding Heritage Centre is open for tours 2pm every Sunday throughout the year. www.glidingheritage.org.uk
- **Fly with Lasham Gliding Society** – Lasham Airfield, The Avenue, Alton GU34 5SS. A trial flight is a fantastic way for you to experience gliding for the first time, once at 2500ft you will be invited to take the controls under the tuition of your instructor. www.lashamgliding.com



Chawton House

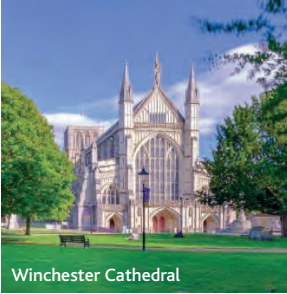


Lavender Fields

- **The Lavender Fields** – Hartley Park Farm, Alton GU34 3HP. The Lavender Fields is owned by fourth generation farmers, the fields are open seasonally over the summer to visitors, with the shop is open February to December. www.thelavenderfields.co.uk
- **Gilbert White's House & Gardens** – The Wakes, High Street, Selborne GU34 3JH Visit the beautifully restored house and gardens of natural history pioneer Gilbert White. With a museum, fascinating historic collections, and activities for the whole family. www.gilbertwhiteshouse.org.uk
- **Alice Holt Forest (Forestry England)** – Bucks Horn Oak, Farnham GU10 4LS. Free admission but car park charges apply. Alice Holt has something for everyone, with a Go-Ape treetop adventure, lots of trails and play areas to discover. Gruffalo trail packs are available from the information centre. www.forestryengland.uk/alice-holt-forest



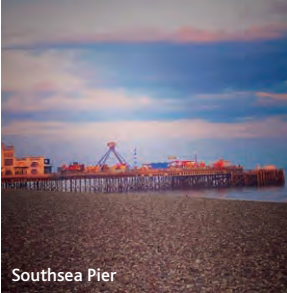
Gilbert White's House & Gardens



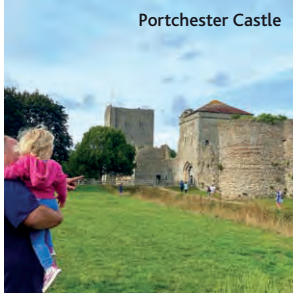
Winchester Cathedral



London



Southsea Pier



Portchester Castle

FURTHER AFIELD...

- **Hampshire Cultural Trust** – An independent charity offering outstanding cultural experiences to both its residents and visitors. With 26 venues across the county including Milestones Museum, Basing House, and Aldershot Military Museum. To see what's on at each venue and for more information visit: www.hampshireculture.org.uk
- **National Trust** – We are lucky to be surrounded by many National Trust sites in the local area like Hinton Amper, The Wyne, Mottisfont, Uppark,

Selborne Common and the Zig-Zag and Frensham Little Pond. Free admission to members, please visit the website to check ticket admission and car park charges: www.nationaltrust.org.uk

- **English Heritage** – There are several historical English Heritage sites a short drive from Alton, many of which have free admission such as Waverley Abbey, Farnham Castle Keep and the Silchester Roman City Walls and Amphitheatre. For more information on where to visit: www.english-heritage.org.uk



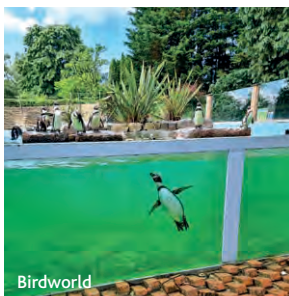
Frensham little pond



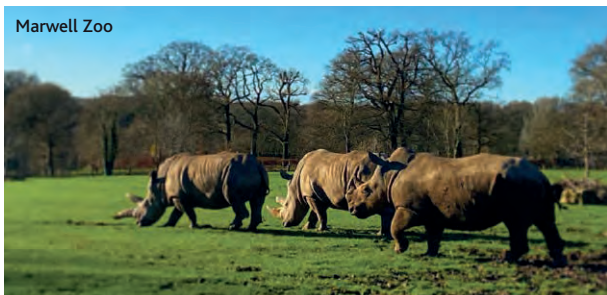
The Wyne



Hogmoor Enclosure



Birdworld



Marwell Zoo

- **Marwell Zoo** – Thompson’s Lane, Colden Common, Winchester SO21 1JH. www.marwell.org.uk
- **Petersfield Lake and Heath** – Heath Road, Petersfield GU31 4EA. Free Admission. www.petersfield-tc.gov.uk/the-heath
- **Winchester Cathedral** – 9 The Close, Winchester Hampshire SO23 9LS. www.winchester-cathedral.org.uk
- **Birdworld** – Holt Pound Lane, Farnham GU10 4LD. www.birdworld.co.uk
- **Queen Elizabeth Country Park and Butser Hill (Forestry England)** – South Downs, Hampshire PO8 0QE www.forestryengland.uk/queen-elizabeth-country-park
- **Winchester Science Centre and Planetarium** – Telegraph Way, Winchester SO21 1HZ. www.winchestersciencecentre.org



Queen Elizabeth Country Park



WALKS AND TRAILS IN ALTON

As the Gateway to the South Downs National Park, Alton offers superb walks and cycle routes across the Hampshire countryside.

Alton has a rich history with many interesting places to visit. With a wonderful selection of short circular walks taking you around the town and natural open spaces within the town as well as out towards the stunning parish boundary.

For those looking for more of a challenging walk along undulating paths and tracks, far reaching and unspoilt countryside views, Alton has a fantastic selection of longer walks. Why not try the Writers' Way (Chawton to Selborne), Alton Six Hills Walk, the Hangers Way, or to access the St Swithun's Way (Winchester to Farnham).

Alton is very lucky to have a wonderful group of volunteers called, Walk Alton, who bring together representatives from local walking groups and clubs alongside the Town Council and local businesses. Walk Alton aims to support and develop walking activities in the Alton area, both for recreation and to support local initiatives to improve people's health, and to work with the local community, businesses, walking-related organisations and local authorities. For more details about Walk Alton and the variety of Walks Alton have to offer click on the QR link.



As well as being popular for walking, Alton is also an ideal location for cyclists. There is something for all abilities, from short rides into the town centre for a spot of local shopping or a bite to eat, or long distance cycle routes through picturesque 'chocolate box' villages or into the neighbouring South Downs National Park. For the more adventurous rider there are plenty of off-road tracks to explore in the surrounding countryside and woodland cycle paths.



Throughout the town you will find plenty of cycle storage and two maintenance stations which can be located on the Cycle Alton map. The map, along with suggested local cycle routes, a journey planner tool and information on local cycling clubs can be found on the 'My Journey Active Alton' website – www.myjourneyhampshire.com/cycle/active-alton. QR codes have been added to the cycle infrastructure in the town centre which take you to the website, alternatively a printed Cycle Alton leaflet is also available.

The success of Alton's annual Walking and Cycling Festival in May, is indicative of how popular the area is with walkers and cyclists, whether they live locally or are visiting.

For more information about cycling in and around Alton and the details about local cycling groups please scan here.



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The Allen Gallery

Situated in the historic market town of Alton, the Allen Gallery is an intimate setting for one of the south's most outstanding collections of ceramics. The gallery hosts a varied selection of pottery, porcelain and tiles dating from 1250 to the present day. Alongside its inspiring permanent displays, the Allen Gallery hosts a wide variety of temporary exhibitions all year round, as well as drop-in sessions, talks, bookable workshops and a regular programme of fun events and activities for all the family to enjoy. Free admission.

10-12 Church Street, Alton GU34 2BW
t: 01420 82802 • w: www.hampshireculture.org.uk



The Curtis Museum

The Curtis Museum in Alton is home to one of the finest local history collections in Hampshire, exploring 100 million years of the region's past. Permanent exhibitions include a rare Roman enamel cup, ancient Saxon burials, hop picking and brewing, Cranford author Elizabeth Gaskell, the 1643 Battle of Alton - with a Civil War era helmet, breastplate and sword - and the notorious tale of Sweet Fanny Adams. There's also a regular programme of events, complete with family-friendly and educational activities. Free admission.

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opening times

www.thelavenderfields.co.uk

Lavender Fields, Selborne. Growing and harvesting lavender which is used to produce a wide range of products. Essential Oils, Body Care, Home Fragrance and more. Farm shop/cafe open all year round. Field open to visitors every day during the flowering season. Lavender plants available April - September.

'Like' our Facebook page to keep up to date with news & events



A GREENER ALTON

Alton Town Council is passionate about proactively tackling the climate crisis and helping residents and visitors to Alton reduce their carbon footprint.

REFILL ALTON

Refill Alton is an initiative for the town, which allows visitors to the town to have their water bottles reused and refilled for free at several shops, businesses, community buildings and retail outlets across the Town. There is also Miss Bell's drinking fountain located in the Public Gardens.

ALTON CLOTHES BANK

If you are in need of clothing the new Alton Clothes Bank is open every Tuesday from 9am-midday at St Mary's Church Hall, Normandy Street, Alton, GU34 1DN

ALTON LOCAL FOOD INITIATIVE (ALFI)

Alton Local Food Initiative encourages and enables people in our local community to be involved in growing, sourcing, and eating local, seasonal, and responsibly produced food with several community plots around Alton. www.altonlocalfood.org.uk

ALTON CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK (ACAN)

A community group that brings people together to tackle the climate emergency by offering a forum for people from Alton and the surrounding villages and encouraging the development of groups on specific issues - www.altonclimatenetwork.org.uk

ACAN supports several local community groups and projects all of which can be found on their website including:

- **ALTON COMMUNITY CUPBOARD** - 3 Westbrook Walk, Alton. The Community Cupboard redistributes surplus food from local supermarkets. Open between 11.30 a.m. and 1 p.m. every day except Thursdays and Sundays.
- **ALTON REPAIR CAFÉ** - A team of local volunteers holding regular sessions to offer free help with repairs to clothes and textiles, mechanical and small electrical items, and bikes.
- **COMMUNITY SHARE** - A free eco-friendly lending library of toys, games, jigsaws and activities, powered by donations from the local community.
- **ENERGY ALTON** - The community group aims to help people reduce energy costs, increase comfort and wellbeing, reduce fossil fuels, and promote renewables - www.energyalton.org.uk
- **LOCAL ACTION FOR NATURE (AVLAN)** - Encouraging and supporting wildlife and nature in residential gardens, parks, road verges or industrial estates with projects like the wildflower verge on Butts Road.
- **PLASTIC FREE ALTON** - Working towards Alton gaining a 'Plastic Free Community' status by taking positive action to reduce dependence on single use plastics and promoting the use of sustainable alternatives.



FOOD AND DRINK

Whether you are looking for somewhere to enjoy drinks with friends, coffee with colleagues or dining with family, Alton has a variety of restaurants, cafes, pubs and take-aways to choose from.

Alton's piazza style Market Square offers alfresco seating where you can enjoy take-aways or picnics. There are many pubs and restaurants fronting the Market Square including Pizza Express, Mifta's Indian restaurant, as well as the Market Hotel and the Wheatsheaf where most weekends you can find live music and entertainment. Plus the very popular Ten Tun Tap House, an independent bar focusing on amazing beer from specialist breweries.

Alton is lucky to have several independent and well-known chain cafes in the town centre perfect for lunch, a morning coffee or afternoon tea treat. The High Street is home to the traditional Italian coffee shop Bottega Dei Sapori, Beans and Bakes sandwich bar, Stones cafe, Costa and Café Nero.

Just off the High Street are Austen's café on Lenten Street, Blend-it the healthy food and juice bar in Westbrook Walk, Coffee Cherry on Normandy Street, and the Alton Hideout café on Turk Street.



If you are dining out there are several restaurants offering a range of cuisine in the town centre including the new Heavens Kitchen steak house, Thai restaurants the River Kwai and the Thai Boutique, Frango's Grill barbecue restaurant, Oceans 11 fish and chip bar, and Indian restaurants the Curry Palace and the Balti Tandoori.

For those preferring take-away, there is a wide selection on offer including Chinese, Indian, Thai, pizza, fish & chips, burgers and kebabs. Alton is now served by Deliveroo with many local restaurants now also available for take-away food using the service.

Due to Alton's brewing heritage, it is still home to 12 pubs in the town vicinity some of which also offer delicious traditional pub food. In the town centre you will find The Swan Hotel, Bakers Arms, The Crown Hotel, White Horse, Ivy House (Weatherspoon's) The Eight Bells and the George. Slightly further out there is the French Horn, The Queen's Head and The White Hart. The full list of independent pubs along with their history can be found on the Alton Beer Mile website – www.altonbeermile.co.uk. The Alton Beer Mile was created by a local resident to try and support the pubs as they came out of lockdown during the Covid-19 pandemic.



ACCOMMODATION

Whether you are planning a weekend break, business trip or a longer visit, Alton has a great choice of places to stay.

Our wide range of hotels, B&Bs, self-catering accommodation and campsites cater for a diverse range of requirements; whether you prefer to be centrally located in town or nestled in the surrounding rural backdrop. Whilst Alton Town Council cannot recommend places to stay, here are the details of our local accommodation...

ACCOMMODATION IN OR WITHIN A SHORT WALK OF ALTON TOWN CENTRE:

- **Alton Grange B&B:** 19 London Road, Alton GU34 4EG. 01420 86565.
- **Alton House Hotel:** Normandy Street, Alton GU34 1DN. 01420 80033. www.altonhousehotel.com
- **The Crown Hotel:** High Street, Alton GU34 1BN. 01420 590350. www.crownhotelalton.com
- **The French Horn, Chalets:** Whitedown Lane, Alton GU34 1RT. 01420 83269. www.frenchhorn.co.uk
- **The Market Hotel:** Market Square, Alton GU34 1HD. 01420 82350. www.markethotelaltonpub.co.uk
- **The Swan Hotel:** High Street, Alton GU34 1AT. 01420 83777. www.oldenglishinns.co.uk
- **Upper Neatham Mill Farm Guest House:** Holybourne, Alton GU34 4EP. 01420 542908. www.upperneatham.co.uk
- **The White Hart:** 139 London Road, Holybourne, Alton GU34 4EY. 01420 87654. www.whitehartholybourne.com
- **Wigwam Holidays:** Park Farm, Chawton Park Road, Alton GU34 1SW. 01420 82634. www.wigwamholidays.com



ACCOMMODATION IN ALTON'S SURROUNDING VILLAGES:

- **The Anchor Inn:** Lower Froyle, Alton GU34 4NA. 01420 23261. www.anchorinnatlowerfroyle.co.uk
- **The Angel Hotel:** Gosport Road, Privett, Alton GU34 3NN. 01730 828111. www.angel-hotel.co.uk
- **The Barn at Barford Farmhouse:** Common Hill, Medstead, Alton GU34 5LZ. 01420 562682. www.barfordfarmhouse.com
- **Bavins Bed and Breakfast:** New Odiham Road, Alton, Hampshire GU34 5SX. 01420 82171. www.bavins.co.uk
- **Bentworth Boutique B&B:** 1 Parsonage Cottages, Station Road, Bentworth, Alton GU34 5QY. 07899 961669
- **Feather Down Manor Farm:** Manor Farm, Blanket Street, West Worldham, Alton GU34 3BD. 01420 80804. www.featherdown.co.uk
- **Froyle Park:** Ryebriidge Lane, Upper Froyle, Alton GU34 4LA. 0844 8910680. www.harbourhotels.co.uk
- **The Horse Hut & Lotus Spa:** Pond Cottage, Upper Soldridge Road, Medstead, Alton GU34 5QG. 07974595488. www.littleplaceinthecountry.com
- **Shepherds Court B&B:** Whitehouse Farm, Selborne Road, Chawton, Alton GU34 3HL. 01420 541453
- **Farnham House Hotel:** Alton Road, Farnham, Surrey GU10 5ER. www.farnhamhousehotel.com
- **The Poacher Inn:** Alton Road, South Warnborough RG29 1RP. 01256 862403. www.poacherinn.com
- **The Three Horseshoes:** Cakers Lane, East Worldham, Alton GU34 3AE. 01420 832111. www.threehorseshoesalton.co.uk
- **Travel Lodge:** 156 Winchester Road, Four Marks GU34 5HZ. 0871984 6002 www.travelodge.co.uk
- **The Wagon and The Wigwam in the Woods:** Plum Cottage, Medstead, Alton GU34 5NQ. 07974595488 www.littleplaceinthecountry.com
- **Watercress Lodges & Campsite:** Bighton Hill, Alresford SO24 9SQ. 07970335236. www.watercresslodges.co.uk
- **West End Flower Farm:** West End House, Alton GU34 4JG. 01420 767306. www.westendflowerfarm.com
- **Wyards Farm B&B:** Basingstoke Road, Beech, Alton GU34 4AA. 01420 83838. www.wyardsfarm.uk



USEFUL INFORMATION

Please find below a list of useful contact details for local services and facilities.

TRANSPORT IN ALTON

Alton is at the centre of a modern commuter network, which provides rapid access to the capital and major cities and facilities in Southeast England.

BY RAIL

Alton Train Station, Station Rd, Alton GU34 2PZ.

- **South West Trains** from Alton to London Waterloo. Tel: 0345 600 0650, website: www.southwesttrains.co.uk.
- **National Rail Enquiries**, train times and fares. Tel: 03457484950, website: www.nationalrail.co.uk.

BY BUS

- **Stagecoach** is the main provider of bus services in the area, tel: 0871 200 2233, website: www.stagecoachbus.com

BY TAXI

Alton Town Council cannot recommend any companies, but the town is served by several taxi operators including: Alton 8's 01420 88888 / Court's Cars 01420 588007 / Driving Miss Daisy 07383107735 / H Cabs 01420 89047 / Taj Executive Hire 01420 544544 / Wilson Taxis 01420 87777

CYCLING IN ALTON

Alton promotes car-free travel and has lots of cycle storage around the town centre which can be found on the Cycle Alton map on the **My Journey Hampshire, Active Alton** website: www.myjourneyhampshire.com/cycle/active-alton

WALKING IN ALTON

The Walk Alton website has a variety of popular local walks and clubs www.walkalton.org.uk

PARKING IN ALTON

If travelling by car there are plenty of free short stay parking spaces in the town centre and several long stay, pay and display car parks. For a list of car parks in Alton visit: www.parkopedia.co.uk

GENERAL INFORMATION, A-Z ALTON ASSEMBLY ROOMS, COMMUNITY CENTRE AND SHOPMOBILITY

Tel: 01420 85057, websites: www.altonassemblyrooms.com and www.altoncomcen.org.uk

ALTON AND DISTRICT RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION, www.adra.community

ALTON FOODBANK, Market Square, Alton. 07773 034447 www.altonfoodbank.org.uk

ALTON REGISTRY OFFICE, 4 Queens Road, Alton. Tel: 0330 555 1392 www.hants.gov.uk/registration

ALTON SPORTS CENTRE, Chawton Park Road, Alton, GU34 1ST. Tel: 01420 540040, www.everyoneactive.com

ALLOTMENTS, Alton Town Council, Tel: 01420 83986 or email admin@alton.gov.uk

CITIZENS' ADVICE BUREAU,
Market Square, Alton, GU34 1HD.
Tel: 080 8278 7901, website:
www.citizensadvice.org.uk

DOCTORS' SURGERIES

- **The Wilson Practice,** Anstey Road, Alton. Tel: 01420 84676. www.wilsonpractice.co.uk
- **Chawton Park Surgery,** Chawton Park Road, Alton. Tel: 01420 542542. www.chawtonparksurgery.nhs.uk

EDUCATION SERVICES, finding a school, holiday dates, apply for a school place, transport, and free school meals - www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning

ELECTRICITY POWER CUT – call 105

Scottish & Southern Energy supply the area.
Tel: 0800 072 7282.

EMERGENCY FIRE AND RESCUE, MEDICAL OR POLICE EMERGENCY – call 999

For a non-life threatening urgent medical problem - 111.nhs.uk or call 111. Non-emergency crimes can be reported online: www.police.uk or call 101.

GAS EMERGENCY – National Grid 24-hour emergency line
Tel: 0800 111 999.

HOSPITALS

- **Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospital and A & E** (24 hours casualty services), Aldermaston Road, Basingstoke, RG24 9NA. Tel: 01256 473202
- **Alton Community Hospital** (no emergency department) Chawton Park Road, Alton, GU34 1RJ. Tel: 0300 003 2196

JOB CENTRE, Alton Job Centre Plus, 1-3 Butts Road, Alton.
Tel: 0845 604 3719

LIBRARY, Alton Library, Vicarage Hill, Alton. Tel: 0330 5551387.
www.hants.gov.uk/library

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- **Alton Town Council,** Town Hall, Market Square, Alton. Tel: 01420 83986, www.alton.gov.uk.
- **East Hants District Council,** Petersfield. Tel: 01730 266551, www.easthants.gov.uk
- **Hampshire County Council,** Winchester. General enquiries tel: 0300 555 1375, website: www.hants.gov.uk

POST OFFICES

- **Alton Post Office,** W H Smith, Westbrooke Walk, Alton, GU34 1HZ
- **Alton Delivery Office,** 73 High Street, Alton, GU34 1AA. Tel: 03457 740 740
- **Raven Square,** 27-28 Raven Square, Alton, Hampshire, GU34 2LL
- **Holybourne Shop and Post Office,** London Road, Holybourne. Tel: 01420 83323

SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENTS,

www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth

- **Adult Services,** Tel: 0300 555 1386,
- **Children and Families Services,** Tel: 0300 555 1384.

WATER SUPPLY

- **South East Water** 0333 000 0002. 24-hour leak line Tel: 0333 000 3330
- **Thames Water** (sewerage/ blocked drains) Tel: 0800 316 9800
- **Water outages** in your area: <https://inyourarea.digdat.co.uk/southeastwater>

MORE LOCAL INFORMATION

Leaflets can be found at the carousels in Alton Library, Alton Train Station and at the Curtis Museum information desk.

Or scan the QR code for the Alton Town Council 'Local Information' webpage.





A MAGICAL DAY OUT



Enjoy a great family day out come rain or shine. Tickets give you all day travel, so you can hop on and off at any of the four heritage stations. Explore the playground and get up close to locomotives. Pick up a free activity leaflet and discover the Young Engineer's Trail. Children under 5 years travel free! Special events include Day Out with Thomas, Wizard Weekend and Steam Illuminations.

WATERCRESSLINE.CO.UK
INFO@WATERCRESSLINE.CO.UK

The Railway Station, Station Road, New Alresford, Alresford SO24 9JG
TEL: 01962 733810



watercressline



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Mid Hants Railway 'The Watercress Line'