

## Saving the Alton Museums *by Brian Alexander & Mike Biddiss*

In the last Newsletter we highlighted the threat to adequate public accessibility at the Curtis Museum and the Allen Gallery. Most particularly, we reported fully on the excellently-attended Public Assembly held on 28 September 2010. This had been summoned by an emergency action group, 'Save the Alton Museums' (SAM), in which your Society was fully represented from the outset. The meeting mandated a Steering Group to campaign further against proposals from the Hampshire County Council that involved 'deletion' of all its funded posts on the Curtis and Allen sites and indicated severe limitations upon opening times. Sadly, though the various objections aired at the Assembly and listed in our Newsletter were vigorously reiterated by SAM and by your Society's committee over the following month or so, the relevant Executive Member of the HCC was not deflected from confirming in mid-November her decision to endorse the proposed staffing cuts.

However, by the time of this setback, the scale of local protest had also encouraged potential involvement from the Hampshire Museums and Galleries Trust (HMGT: further information available via [www.hantsmustrust.org.uk](http://www.hantsmustrust.org.uk)). This is a



not-for-profit self-funding charitable body, on which the HCC itself is represented. Since the early 1990s, the Trust has been active in broadening support for museums across the county, most notably in Basingstoke and Andover. It has developed a strong track record in winning external financing and sponsorship, and has given special prominence to its so-called EDGE project (well featured on the website) aimed at engaging the interest of young people aged from 14 to 24 in museums, galleries, and 'discovery centres'.

Concerning the Alton situation, the HCC went on to respond very positively to various initiatives suggested by the HMGT. These were also considered by the SAM grouping, as led first by Luath Grant-Ferguson and then by Ian Sutherland during the period up to Christmas. Against that background, the Trust's ideas have been discussed over the last two months or so within a broader body which recently developed into the Alton Museums Partnership



(AMP) Steering Group. It has included, alongside the HMGT and the HCC, not only participants from SAM and the Alton Society but also representatives of the Museum Friends, the Alton Community Association, and the Town and District Councils

A second Public Assembly was held on 19 January, under the auspices of SAM and the chairmanship of David Willoughby as Town Mayor, to report and discuss the progress made to date. There an audience of some 200 heard from Nicole Penn-Symons, the current convener of SAM; from John Tickle, the HCC's Assistant Director of Culture (accompanied by Chris Palmer as Head of Collections); and Ian Smith, the HMGT's Director of Development. The speakers outlined a scheme in which the County would continue making expert curatorial input through its central museum services, as well as owning and maintaining the relevant buildings. The Trust, for its part, would manage operations at Alton and deploy appropriate professional staffing on a basis that, with volunteer support, should secure the continuance of good public access (broadly matching present levels) at both the Allen and the Curtis sites. The HMGT's formal involvement was planned to start in April (with the AMP group being officially reconstituted as a management body at that point), and a process of transition was due to be completed by the beginning of July. It was intended that these arrangements would cover the next three years at least. During that period the Trust would not only use its experience in funding and sponsorship with a view to securing the museums' future for the even longer term but also undertake a general review of their functions, displays, and overall layout. One possibility was, for example, that the Curtis site might develop as a focal point of outreach to young people via the EDGE initiative, while the Allen

Gallery could well become the base for a redeveloped presentation of 'the story of Alton'.

After questions and discussion, the Assembly formally approved in broad terms (and with no dissenting votes) the scheme as outlined by the speakers. The meeting also passed a further resolution to the effect that, as and when the SAM steerers might think it timely to dissolve the action group, any surplus of campaigning funds should then be transferred to the Friends of the Curtis Museum and the Allen Gallery.

Since the point at which the HMGT offered to step in and the HCC agreed to pursue a solution in collaboration with the Trust, the committee of your Society has supported these efforts towards generating a new 'partnership' model capable of sustaining regular public access to Alton's museums. That said, all of us realize how much remains still to be settled and achieved. For example, the nature and extent of the practical support that might come over the longer term from the Town and District Councils needs further consideration, as does the potential contribution from other local organizations. Nor will the Trust's aspirations be properly fulfilled without the aid of individual volunteers from the town community. Thus, when the call goes out, your committee would encourage Altonians to think about offering time and effort to that end. Meanwhile, and with a view to promoting this spirit of civic 'involvement', AMP would welcome any further questions or suggestions about its continuing work on the development of the new scheme. These can be directed via Steve Parkinson, who as Town Clerk (best contacted by email on [info@alton.gov.uk](mailto:info@alton.gov.uk)) has agreed to forward them to the particular person or persons best-fitted to provide a response in each case.

[www.savealtonmuseums.org](http://www.savealtonmuseums.org)



## Chairman's Corner

by James Willis



In some ways it is regrettable that planning application plans and documents are no longer routinely available in physical form for inspection here in Alton, but the new system has great advantages too. I think

it has taken all of us some time to fully appreciate how easily anyone with an internet connection can now view the details of any planning application, including its drawings, from the proverbial 'comfort of their own home'. To help introduce people to the system we try to place direct links to particularly important plans on the planning page of our website:

[www.altonsociety.org.uk/planning.html](http://www.altonsociety.org.uk/planning.html).

But it is well worthwhile diving a little deeper and learning to use the search page and the index of all the documents applicable to each case. Edward Hepper does a fantastic job monitoring these applications, but never be afraid to draw anything you are particularly concerned about to our attention.

One thing that concerned me when I was looking closely at a current proposal for an infilling development on Anstey Road was a clearly-marked gate across the entrance. There is already one 'gated development' in Alton (at which I eventually gave up trying to hand-deliver a card this Christmas) and we do not want this to creep until it becomes the norm; Alton is a wonderfully safe town,

and to suggest otherwise is not only an insult but could well become self-fulfilling.

Crime rates have risen since the days in the early 70s when all the old people I visited as a doctor left their front doors open and I (and all the other people who helped them) just walked in, but the national figures for reported crime peaked in 1992 and have been falling steadily ever since\*. Public perceptions are notoriously different from this, but that is the point, that is irrational, the facts show clearly that there is less, not more, need for 'gated developments' than there was twenty years ago. It is easy to imagine that if these things became more common we might pass a point when people began to feel unsafe without them and Alton could begin to look like a South American drug state with people barricaded behind Colditz-like gates at every turn.

It is a curious and depressing fact that the safer life becomes the more the hazards that do remain stand out and make headlines, and the more people worry about them. I personally never thought we needed surveillance cameras in the High Street, and now that we have got them we are having to pay for their operation in preference to professional staff for our museums. These are all matters of judgement, but we do have choices, and we should not let the famously friendly face of our town become scarred by fashionable but irrational fears.

\* *A Century of Change: Trends in UK statistics since 1900* House of Commons Research Paper 99/111



### Alton Spring Clean 2011 – Saturday 26th March fixed for town litter pick

The Alton & District Youth Council are taking the lead in organising the annual town litter pick this year. This will be the third year for this important, rewarding and surprisingly enjoyable event and we are hoping for another strong turnout from Alton Society members, their friends, and their families. Please earmark that morning if you can, we all know the way a clean town tends to stay clean, but more importantly, *vice versa!*

## Looking after Flood Meadows *report by Alex Baker*

On Sunday 21st November, some ten Alton Society members and volunteers, under the direction of our team leader Martin, reported for duty at the entrance to Flood Meadows. It was established that a large 4x4 vehicle had attempted to navigate the lower footpath adjacent to the river and caused the edge of the path to collapse. Part of the group was asked to carry out the repair to the damaged path, and during the next two hours some six meters long and 300mm high of bank reinforcement was erected, back-filled and completed. Posts, timbers and materials were provided by members and from Martin's trailer.



Afterwards we all gathered at the trailer with a cup of hot tea or coffee, complemented with a donation of chocolate muffins supplied by a lady worker, to congratulate ourselves on a job well done. Cost to the Alton Society – tea and coffee; cost saving to Alton Town Council – say £200.

## Relations between EHDC and Havant Borough Council

We continue to learn that more of the senior posts in EHDC are to be shared with Havant Borough Council and some other resources shared, 'where appropriate'. However we are assured that, at present, a full merger is not planned.

## The Local List

The Holybourne survey has now been completed – including Jane Hurst's historical notes on Holybourne, for which we are most grateful – and will be forwarded to EHDC. This completes the survey work on the Local List for Alton. From now on, the work required will be editing it into a readily usable format – similar to the sample tabled at the 40th Anniversary celebration – and persuading EHDC to use it.



## South Downs National Park

The South Downs National Park Authority takes up its powers and will operate from 1st April this year. Government has allocated it a budget of £11m for 2011-2012. Run-of-the-mill planning applications will be dealt with by EHDC under delegated powers.

## The 'Improvement to the appearance of Alton town' campaign

The Alton Society Campaign for the 'Improvement to the Appearance of Alton Town' has been running now for some two years and we welcome the interest shown and encouragement given by the EHDC, the HCC and the ATC, with particular mention of their Mayors and Deputy Town Clerk.

We are grateful indeed for the expert advice so generously given by our Tree Warden, Jim Dickinson, to allow our Programme of Tree-Planting to proceed alongside the Appearance Campaign.

There have been considerable improvements to the condition of the Town Centre, notably to roadways and pavements as well to the paintwork of seats, railings and signs. Also, there has been noticeable attention given to a number of premises that were in need of external repairs and decoration.

All of this effort has added greatly to the pleasing overall appearance of our attractive Town.

However, this Campaign is not just concerned with the visual appearance of the Town, important though that is, but also it endeavours to project a positive impression to our townsfolk and our visitors that the Town is well looked after, it is neat and tidy, with the pavements safe for all pedestrians and wheelchair users, because this all helps to provide confidence to encourage new businesses and visitors to come and bring much-needed trade and prosperity to the Town and the District.

As with all ventures at this time there is the added challenge presented by the current economic downturn but, perhaps, this could well be regarded as an appropriate opportunity to undertake improvements while there is a desire to obtain such work during lean times.

While good progress has been achieved over the last couple of years there remain some tasks that yet need to be undertaken in order to bring all the many and various contributions to a satisfactory conclusion.

Concerning the roads and pavements

there remain some aspects that need further attention, such as raising of manhole covers to the surrounding surface levels, the replacement of still rather too many uneven, cracked and missing paving slabs and bricks and the replacement of unsightly tarmac infill patches with matching surfaces. Also, there remain a few bollards that need to be installed to match those nearby and there is a new road-sign that has to be replaced.

Then, regarding the building facades there are still some needing repair – attention to window frames and draping wiring, as well as to the fabric itself.

Regarding the re-painting work, some benches and other small items need attention. The attention given to the Gardens' railings along Westbrooke Road are a great improvement, although the opportunity to adopt a matching smart dark green to the recently installed gates at each end of this road has, sadly, been overlooked! The Gardens' railings nearby those magnificent new Public Toilets are in urgent need of attention or, even, replacement.

Indeed, it would be helpful if at some High Street shop premises the traders could give attention to the upper level windows that overlook the High Street to ensure that storage items, etc, are not readily visible to passers by in the Street, as this action would present a tidy appearance to the High Street as a whole.

Finally, may a plea be made that we all have due regard to the appearance of our Town at all times in order to ensure that it is kept neat and tidy with an air of care and attention which will, undoubtedly, help to impart an impression of confidence that "this is a good town, is our town"!

So, there is some way to go yet but, hopefully, with a fair wind and some further effort soon the tasks will be completed for the benefit of our Alton Town.

Thank you.

*Norman Isham – a Committee Member*

## Planning Applications *report by Edward Hepper*

The pace of planning applications has slowed over the Christmas period.

The most significant issue has been the **battle of the supermarkets**, culminating at a special EHDC meeting on 21st December, when **Tesco's Mill Lane** application (22467) was refused again – for the same reasons as before plus the fact that there was now a viable alternative at Station Road, which was nearer the town centre and so less likely to impact on High Street trade. The meeting permitted both the Station Road applications, leaving the two firms to resolve between themselves which should go ahead. Both left significant worries with Councillors over transport access and egress to Anstey Road and Paper Mill Lane. But both are using only a small fraction of their floor area for non-food items, thus reducing their impact on High Street trading.

**Waitrose** (20518/26) is slightly the smaller of the two but has full planning permission and a firm option on the actual site it needs; so it can move ahead straightaway.

**Morrisons** (20518/27), on the other hand is slightly the larger of the two but only has outline permission, approving only its transport proposals and its overall scale. It does not own or have an option on the actual site of the store although it does own some peripheral sites around. It is likely to be slower in moving ahead.

We now know that Tesco have appealed again although we think that, with the Station Road proposals now permitted, it is unlikely that they would win.

Neither of the two proposals apply to any part of the station area other than the application sites on the east side of Station Road. However your Committee is hoping to work with the Town Council to invigorate the Alton Town Partnership initiative in planning for more improvement to the greater station site area, with the possibility of further redevelopment in the longer term; and, more immediately, to encourage the successful supermarket developer, as part of their contract, to improve the appearance of the western side of Station Road – perhaps with some tree planting – as well.

**Chandos Lodge** (50167) housing development for some 170 dwellings is up for renewal of its planning application and this is the opportunity to press for improvements to their scheme, not least in sustainability and energy efficiency. There have been 9 representations to date and so this application should be debated in public at a full planning committee meeting.

Other applications of interest include:

- **Junior Football Hub, Anstey Park** (33615)'s revised application was subject to intense public and our opposition. EHDC refused it.
- **Butts House, 64 The Butts** (33440). A scheme for new windows to the front and side of this Listed Building has been permitted by EHDC.
- **Inwood Court, High Street** (23461). The proposal for the replacement of all existing timber windows and doors in the C20th wing by uPVC but did not apply to the older and 'Listed' building. We commented that there was no drawing of the elevation appearance of the replaced windows nor of their effect on the unchanged Listed elevations. More details were produced but not of the comparative effect on the Listed building. We wrote again, copied to the Conservation Officer, and the scheme has now been permitted, but without the drawings requested.
- **89 High Street** (21392). This is a revised scheme for the demolition of the Oceanic House offices in Drayman's Way and their replacement by shops with two floors of flats above. We objected because, although an improvement on the first proposal, it still falls short of the architectural quality appropriate to this prominent site in the Town. We suggested that it be referred to the Architects' Panel. The developers have appealed and we have written to the Inspector.
- **46 King's Road** (39428). This is yet another application for the felling of a prominent cedar tree at the corner of this property. It predates the house on the site and is in

healthy condition. Its canopy is clear of the roof of the house. We objected, in accordance with the Town Design Statement, which recognises the importance of mature landscape trees. EHDC refused permission but the owner has taken it to Appeal.

- **Claines, No 1 London Road, Holybourne** (23851). This proposed the demolition of a large and highly rated house on our Local List and then the construction of a terrace of 12 grossly oversized houses, insensitive to the neighbourhood and in a Conservation Area. We objected and EHDC refused. A revised application has been submitted for five large houses in the back garden, leaving the original house intact. They are squeezed tightly together in a gated community. On these grounds, we have objected although we appreciate the change of plan which preserves the street frontage in this Conservation Area.
- **Units 1 & 2 Mill Lane** (22467). Before Tesco showed interest, this site was granted permission for a small retail park of 3 units. This application is for the renewal of this extant permission. It is only relevant if Tesco pull out from their supermarket project. We have no objection.
- **10 New Barn Lane** (26325). This was for the demolition of an attractive house and its replacement by three houses in this quiet unmade road. While this is one of the ways EHDC has succeeded in meeting its housing quotas, it was felt that this was too intrusive on the neighbours and the scheme was refused by EHDC. It has been re-submitted and has again been refused by EHDC.
- **Amery House, Steeple Drive** (50068). A welcome scheme for its change of use from offices back to residential for this Listed Building has been permitted.
- **9 Vaughans** (34711). The application for side extensions seemed an overdevelopment of the site out of character with the consistent style of the Ashdell Estate, as highlighted in the Town Design Statement. ATC commented that future maintenance would be difficult. However EHDC permitted the scheme.
- **Nos 8 & 10 Whitedown Lane** (39143). This proposal is represents considerable over-development of the site; we objected and the application was withdrawn.
- **Wilson Road** (23341). This proposal involved demolition of poorly maintained bungalow and replacement by 4 new detached 2-3 storey houses at a density of 12.5/ha. Councillors felt the site was not being fully utilised. In the revised proposal, some houses reduced in size and number increased to five. We made no further comment and the scheme has been withdrawn.

### Webwise ...

You can view and comment about planning applications online by entering the application number in the EHDC planning webpage:

<http://planningdevelopment.easthants.gov.uk/donline/acolnetCGI.gov>

There is a one-click link to the EHDC planning search page on the planning page of our website: [www.altonsociety.org.uk/planning.html](http://www.altonsociety.org.uk/planning.html)

## Local Development Framework – Core Strategy – Issues & Options

We have examined EHDC's Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) 2010. It discloses no surprises for Alton beyond the sites already identified and planned for. This depends on the assumptions that

- Central Government does not increase the agreed housing targets for EHDC;
- EHDC's 'reserve' sites and other large sites in the south of the district get planning approvals from the SDNP.

The downside to this is a very small provision for 'affordable' housing in Alton, totally inadequate to satisfy the waiting list.

This SHLAA will be revised this year and we must look out for that.

## Landscape Planting

More trees may be planted this year funded by the Tree Wardens Society. The number will depend on the profits from the sale of their Christmas calendars. Those planted in 2010 are flourishing.

## Alton Community Association and the new Community Centre

We are following the situation and awaiting the next AGM, later this month or next. Please ensure that your membership subscription is up-to-date (they expired at the end of August) and attend the AGM to hear the latest plans. Meanwhile, we are trying to meet the senior EHDC official for the project to impress on him the need to use the present delay to conduct meaningful public consultation and further investigation so that a proper project brief can be prepared, when the financial situation allows.



## Transport

We are pleased to note the quick response of Hampshire County Council in clearing the roads in the December snow falls. We also note the provision this year of additional grit bins at many of the trouble spots identified in our survey last winter. We repeat Councillor Joy's plea that these are for use on the roads adjacent to the bins and not for taking away to clear private drives.

Go-Co still plan to operate a mini-railcar between Medstead and Four Marks to Alton station, although technical difficulties are delaying the launching of the trial scheme. This will use a 'low-carbon ultra-light rail car with 50 seats. It will operate for a trial period five times a day at peak periods Monday to Friday for a month from a revised date still to be announced. Using car parking at Woodlea Park near Medstead station, this could relieve car parking at Alton. Costs will be £5 return or £3 single.

**AGE**  
*Concern*

### SMALL AD – BIG HELP NEEDED **Age Concern Alton**

You may have seen our minibus around Alton. Its prime function is to deliver and return elderly members of our community to a lunch club where they enjoy a hot meal and can talk to others. For some it is almost the only time they get out. We have two problems and are asking for your help.

#### **Could you spend an hour or two, regularly or occasionally, to drive our minibus?**

You must have a full licence and the rest is both easy and rewarding. People are picked up from their home and delivered to the lunch club. After lunch they are returned home.

**We need daily drivers** for both journeys but some drivers share the daily session because they cannot afford the time to do both.

We also have to find a replacement **minibus co-ordinator** who ensures the bus has a driver daily. Our existing co-ordinator has done the job for 32 years so it can't be that bad!

One concern we have is the bus is run for the benefit of Alton yet we only have one of our drivers who lives in Alton!

We are sure Alton can do better than that for its elderly residents so please help us prove it.

Driving is from 10.15am to midday and from 1.00pm to 2.15pm.

**If you could help please contact 01420 85691 or 564231 for more information.**

The **Celebrating Alton!** event on 13th November in the Assembly Rooms, marking the Alton Society's 40th Anniversary, was the most wonderful occasion and achieved exactly what we originally intended – to get a representative sample of activities that go on in the town all together in the same room at the same time. The richness, colour and variety on display on the day astonished even people who knew the town well. It made us all extremely proud. Over fifty groups contributed displays, adhering wonderfully to the prescribed format so that it was possible to set it all up in the limited time available. The Alton Society contributed a further thirty panels, including the ones displaying the 'What I love about Alton' poems, pictures and stories contributed by people of all ages in the town. Many of these items were reproduced in the Celebrating Alton video, compiled specially by Martin Saban-Smith, which was a popular attraction as it ran throughout the day on a large screen lent by Currys.



The musical events got off to a perfect start with Les Packett's new Alton Concert Band playing his superb, specially-written fanfare, right on cue after the Mayor's opening. And then into the marches and other superbly played material. If this is Alton's new Concert Band, then it is indeed most welcome.

I was proud to join AODS for numbers from Pirates and Mikado, and loved being the Pirate King just one last time. Kay Rowan, conducting, always comes up trumps, and it is always a joy and a privilege to sing to Chris Gardner's zestful piano. We also saw what a superb Yum Yum we can look forward to from Jane Mabbitt in March

Then we had Ann Foulkes' Alton Infants children with their simply entrancing country dancing. Pure magic. As was Ann's enthusiasm and overall contribution – she manned her stand all day, until she cleared it away at the end, and dressed up in full Morris costume and war paint for their two slots, in spite of just having had the sort of week you can't imagine for a modern head teacher.



The King's Pond Shantymen are just wonderful, with their full-blooded, spontaneous (shall I call it 'life-affirming'? Oh go on, yes I will) brand of richly harmonious musical fun. They are the very heart of this town.

As are Alton Morris, with Ann already mentioned. What life, energy, colour! And the band up on the stage above them with that wonderful trombone doing the gorgeous lead into each chorus of one number.

Jes, Ed and Ellan, yet another precocious jazz group out of Amery Hill School, gave us a complete change of mood and tone, not to say age-group. My most sincere thanks to them as well for their fine playing and singing.

Then we had the wonderful Alton Community Choir, under their inspirational leader, Carolyn Robson, showing us exactly why they have their famous waiting list – which doesn't move because nobody leaves.

Then another change of mood to Steve Marsden's recorder quartet, Suspirium, whose delicate polyphony permeated the Hall just as surely as the larger groups.

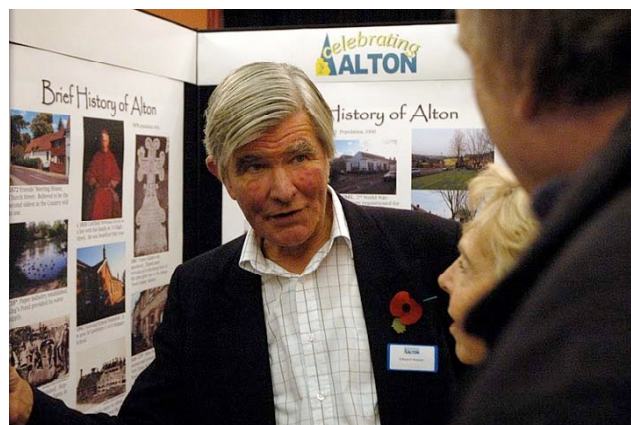
Then Mac Newton led the highly accomplished choir of female voices Ancora in a programme of largely-unaccompanied and beautiful pieces.



And so to our final group, Alton Choral Society, under Jane Mabbitt (who probably appeared in more groups than anyone else) whose final piece, *The Long Day Closes*, by Sullivan in his formal mode, was brilliantly appropriate not least because it is one of my absolute favourites. Sung with exquisite sensitivity and full dynamic range, it was a more perfect close to that long, wonderful day than I could possibly have imagined.

We counted almost 1200 adult visitors (we didn't count children) and everyone kept asking when we were going to do it again. But the whole point was that it was a one-off, unique occasion. That made it possible, and all the more worth-while.

*James Willis*



**Winter in Alton** Some seasonal pictures, by James Willis



Basingstoke and North Hampshire   
NHS Foundation Trust

Basingstoke and North Hampshire NHS Foundation Trust

**Members Meeting**

Tuesday 5 April at 7pm at The Alton Maltings

The speakers will be: Consultant gastroenterologist, Dr Rebecca Saich and Dietician David Swain on the nutritional support for patients

Chief executive, Mary Edwards, will give an update about the hospital

Everyone is welcome to attend

**Join the Alton Society now** – have a say and a role in the future of our town.

The membership subscription is only £10 per individual (but a second person at the same address can be added free) payable annually on 1st October. You can join by completing a short application form which you can download from our website [www.altonociety.org.uk](http://www.altonociety.org.uk) or ask for our leaflet with standing order form – please agree to the subscription being treated as Gift Aid if you can.

Contact our Treasurer: Jan Nicholas, 10 Barton End, Alton, GU34 1LD.  
Phone: 01420 88411 e-mail: [jnich1515@aol.com](mailto:jnich1515@aol.com)

For existing members who already pay by standing order, please note that if you have not done so already, you need to instruct your bank to increase the amount payable to £10. Thank you

## Committee Members

Brian Alexander	01420 549552
Mike Biddiss	01420 543132
Nick Carey-Thomas	01420 82195
Jerry Cullum (Newsletter)	01420 543881
Mike Heelis MBE	01420 82780
Edward Hepper	01420 544176
Norman Isham OBE	01420 542114
Jan Nicholas (Treasurer)	01420 88411
Jackie Slack	01420 85646
James Willis (Chairman)	01420 83416



**Working  
together for the  
future of Alton**

[Info@AltonSociety.org.uk](mailto:Info@AltonSociety.org.uk)

## Open GreenHouse

**Sunday March 6th 1.30pm to 4.30pm – Drop-in to local homes**

Come and see how homes in Alton & Holybourne save energy and money. Check out ways of cutting energy bills and staying warm. There are a wide variety of ideas; some cheap and easy, some more sophisticated. Examples of ideas on display include:

Low energy lighting	Insulated walls, floors and lofts	Warmer Windows
Solar PV electricity	Solar hot water	Woodburners and lots more

- You will be able to
- look closely at the installations at each address
  - discuss the practicalities of installing them
  - consider the benefits, especially reduced fuel bills and enhanced facilities

The list of the Open GreenHouses will be circulated nearer the time. Keep an eye out for future alerts or log your interest now to be sure of a personal e mail. RSVP to Chris Chappell.

[greening.alton@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:greening.alton@hotmail.co.uk)

Check our website regularly for photos, details of meetings, local news, planning information and more:

[www.altonociety.org.uk](http://www.altonociety.org.uk)