

# Amery Hill Residents' Association

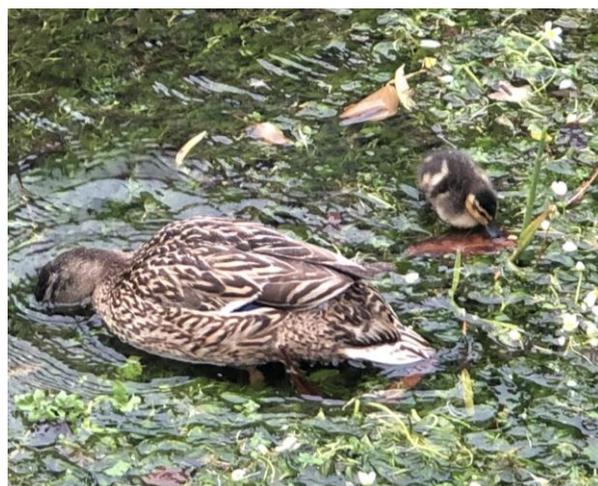
Founded 1984

Representing the residents of Amery Hill, Amery Street, The Cloisters, Cromwell Gardens, Kingdon's Mews, Oliver Rise, Steeple Drive, Tanhouse Lane & Vicarage Hill, Alton

## Business (nearly) as usual!

The last three months have certainly been different! After the initial shock of lockdown, it has been so encouraging to see how so many people have come together to support our local community and keep our day-to-day activities operating as much as possible. New groups have formed, people have transitioned to remote working, and what was once a cursory nod to a neighbour has blossomed into a friendship formed over a mutual desire to help one another.

Disappointing as it was that the Wey Walk didn't get its formal launch as part of the Alton Walking & Cycling Festival, it has been lovely to see so many people discovering the Flood Meadows in recent weeks, either for walking or simply enjoying sitting in the sunshine. For those of you active on Facebook and members of the Alton News group, you'll have seen the many positive comments about our very own green space that we often take for granted as it's a stone's throw from our front door. I am amazed how many people have lived in Alton for years and yet haven't appreciated many of the gems we have enjoyed for years!



We have continued to liaise with Alton Town Council on matters relating to Flood Meadows, and we were invited to join the Alton Community Coordination Group that has been set up by Alton Town Council and Community First so have attended some of these online meetings.

The regular Liaison Meetings for the Redrow Homes development have been cancelled completely, and some of you will have noticed that the site was completely shut down for a few weeks at the start of lockdown. Via the East Hampshire District Council Community New Developments Officer, dialogue is now restarting, although we anticipate this will remain electronic for the foreseeable future. We still seek answers to our questions about future ownership and management of the Lower Field, landscaping of the Lower Field, and potential future flood risk.

In the last few weeks, we have started to see a number of items come back onto the agenda which we are monitoring as they have some level of impact on us as residents. Hampshire County Council is currently running an online consultation on their Local Flood & Water Management Strategy. The Western Wey is one of the areas included so we are reviewing this and will be responding, particularly in relation to catchment areas and SUDS provision. The consultation is open until 12<sup>th</sup> July details at [www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/haveyoursay/consultations](http://www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/haveyoursay/consultations)

Whilst not specifically related to our 'patch' of Alton, we feel that the proposal for a new Veolia Waste facility on the A31 will have some impact on us, and will definitely affect Alton as a whole. Ian Sutherland is reviewing the proposals so that we can give an informed opinion once the application is issued. The Alton & District Residents Association (ADRA) members have switched to meeting remotely and this is definitely on the agenda! Through ADRA, we are also continuing to monitor the updates in relation to East Hampshire District Council's Emerging Plan.

It may be the 'new normal' but it's encouraging to see that people are still getting involved in matters affecting Alton's residents. If you have an issue you want to raise with AHRA, get in touch!

*Louise Parker (Chairman)*

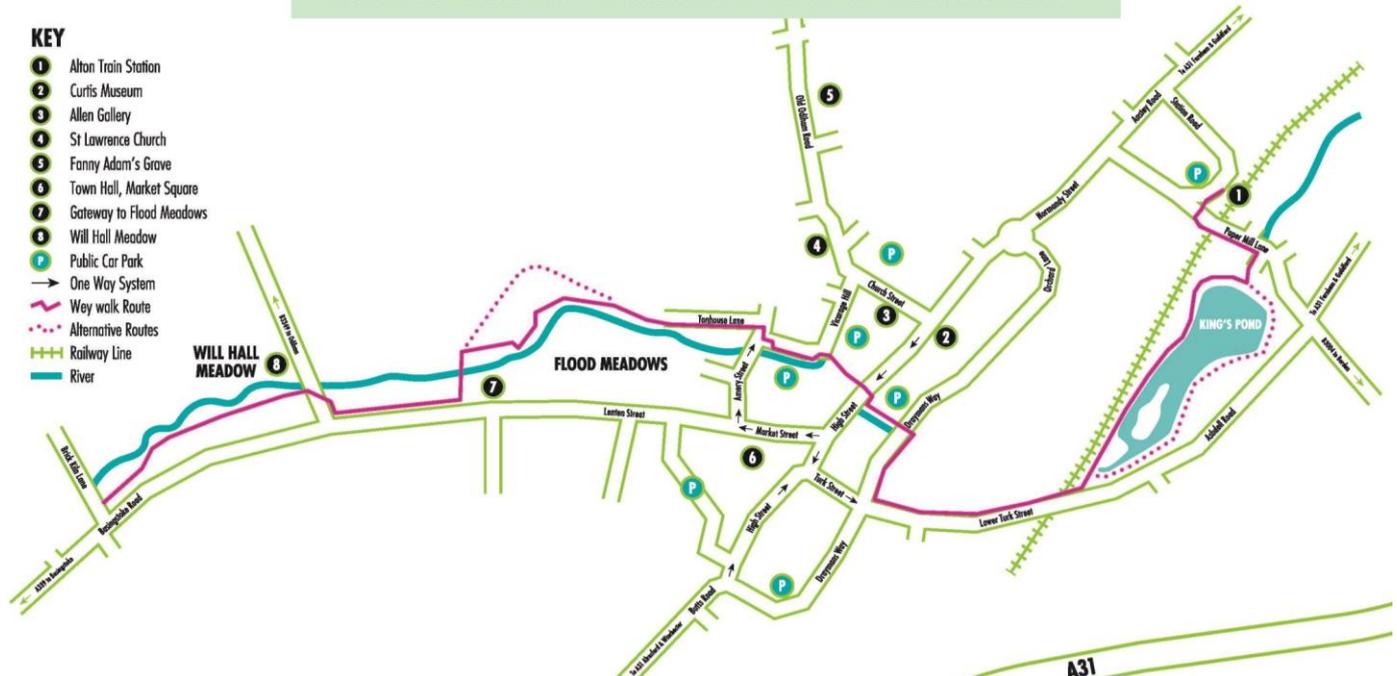


## Wey Walk

This Walk was due to be formally launched on 1 May at the beginning of the Town's Walking Festival. Sadly, the Covid-19 crisis meant that the launch never took place. The Alton Herald at the end of May carried a double page spread describing and illustrating the Walk. When present restrictions are lifted, additional direction signs and information panels will be positioned along the route to guide walkers and visitors. A descriptive leaflet will also be available from the Town Hall. The concept of this Walk was first put forward by our Residents' Committee who have been closely involved in its development. We have discussed its extension through the Brewery site with CALA, the developers, and will pursue this as that scheme emerges from the planning shadows.

*Charles Kaye (Vice-Chairman)*

### THE WEY WALK ROUTE MAP



## Flood Meadows

Just before the lockdown we managed to complete the last of three Pocket Parks schemes for which we got a grant from central government. This last one was the erection of a new gateway into the Flood Meadows from Lenten Street. We now have a very attractive welcoming arch, delightful animal carvings and sturdy oak handrails, all of which combine to transform that bridge area - if you haven't seen it, it is worth a stroll to view. There is some work still to be done there on the river bank up and down stream and we hope, with the help of The Alton Society Working Party (and the raising of some finance) to complete that in the Autumn.



The other two schemes have now blended into the landscape: the dipping platform, regularly used as an observation point over the old watercress beds, and the wild flower meadow with nearby seating (just upstream from the bridge). You can see plenty of poppies and cornflowers where there were only nettles. Also in evidence by the dipping platform is a new picnic table made by Jona Cleaver, decorated with some more of his carvings.

The river itself, after a naturally dry period (it is a winterbourne stream), is now flowing well and that has encouraged a pair of geese to move up from Kings Pond and raise a brood of six goslings which parade on a daily basis. Minnows have also been seen under the Lenten Street bridge and further downstream.

Over the other side of the New Odiham Road the land at the southern end of the Redrow building site is gradually changing into an attractive open space. Redrow still own it but negotiations are well advanced to transfer it to the Town Council. It will be known as Will Hall Meadow. There are some unresolved issues: the footpath is not wearing well and flooding at the western end was a problem that blocked the path for weeks. Trees have been planted to enhance the area - some of these have not survived and will need replacing. But these are problems which can be tackled in due course. What is important is that this extra land will extend our 'green lung' to Brick Kiln Lane.

*Charles Kaye (Vice-Chairman)*



# Communications

Much of the communications from our local councils and groups has switched to online which makes it a lot easier to share. If you would like to receive more regular updates, please send an email to [ameryhillresidents@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ameryhillresidents@hotmail.co.uk) to be added to our mailing list.

We are also investigating whether to make use of an AHRA page as part of the Alton & District Residents' Association's website to disseminate information to a wider audience.

Advance Warning: due to the current climate and uncertainty around social distancing guidelines for the foreseeable future, we have taken the decision not to hold a Community Meeting this autumn. We hope to arrange a summer gathering in 2021 instead.

## Useful Contact Information

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| Alton Town Council:                      | 01420 83986; <a href="mailto:info@alton.gov.uk">info@alton.gov.uk</a> ; <a href="http://www.alton.gov.uk">www.alton.gov.uk</a>   |
| East Hampshire District Council          | 01730 266551, <a href="http://www.easthants.gov.uk">www.easthants.gov.uk</a>   |
| Hampshire County Council                 | 0300 555 1375; <a href="mailto:info@hants.gov.uk">info@hants.gov.uk</a> ; <a href="http://www.hants.gov.uk">www.hants.gov.uk</a> |
| The Alton Society:                       | <a href="http://www.altonsociety.org.uk">www.altonsociety.org.uk</a>   |
| Alton & District Residents' Association: | <a href="http://www.adra.community">www.adra.community</a>   |

## Various Facebook Groups:

Love Alton  
Alton Matters  
Alton News  
Alton Coronavirus Support Group  
Alton Covid-19 Mutual Aid

## Alton & District Community Resilience Fund (ADCRF)

This Fund aims to provide support and assistance to local residents and groups who find themselves in exceptional circumstances and need of help.

For more information and how to apply please visit [www.alton.gov.uk](http://www.alton.gov.uk) Application Forms can be found at various places around Alton including Citizens Advice or in the Community Share at the Community Centre.

Supported by:

ALTON TOWN COUNCIL Citizens Advice East Hampshire harvestchurch foodbank

**ALTON & DISTRICT COMMUNITY RESILIENCE FUND**

SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE FOR LOCAL PEOPLE

Funding available for goods and services up to a value of £500 for:

Individuals and families, as well as project funding for local community groups, charities, and organisations.

For more information go to:

[www.alton.gov.uk](http://www.alton.gov.uk) or email [community@alton.gov.uk](mailto:community@alton.gov.uk)

If you would like to help, you can make a donation at [altonlions.org.uk](http://altonlions.org.uk)

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