

OUT & ABOUT IN MARCH

Alton Library, Vicarage Hill, Alton.

Austen Sisters - Tue 6 at 7:30pm

A diverting 40 minute dramatic and entertaining recital of readings from Jane and Cassandra Austen's letters, prose and poetry about sisters, performed by local actress and speaker Rowan Suart. Spaces are limited so advance booking is essential. Tickets £5 from Alton Library: 01420 85734. www.hants.gov.uk/shop

St Lawrence Church, Alton.

Alton Organ Society - Tue 6 at 8 pm.

Sixth organ concert in Alton Organ Society's 51st year given by David Halls, Director of Music at Salisbury Cathedral. Admission £10 at the door. For more information see www.altonorgansociety.co.uk

Alton Maltings Centre, Maltings Close Alton. Spring Concert- Sat 10 at 7:30pm.

Alton Concert Band present *A Night at The Movies*. An evening of feet tapping Musical entertainment featuring Alton Collage Jazz Band. Tickets: £10.00 from Band Members, Newbury Building Society, Alton High Street and on the door. www.altonconcertband.co.uk

Petersfield Festival Hall, Heath Road, GU31 4EA Petersfield Musical Festival - Fri 9 to Sat 17

A varied programme including choral & orchestral concerts. Performers include Hampshire County Youth Chamber Orchestra, The Petersfield Orchestra and Midhurst Music Society. Buy tickets online. www.petersfieldmusicalfestival.org.uk

Community Centre, Alton.

AGM followed by Discussion - Wed 14 at 7:30pm.

Once the formalities are completed, the evening will be an opportunity for everyone to suggest the top priorities for the group's work over the next five years. Energy Alton has been operating in the town for 5 years, and grew out of the Greening Alton and Holybourne



campaign which was active for the 5 years before that, so its tenth anniversary is a good time to take stock. The future for renewable energy is very exciting – but time is of the essence if we are to stop climate change getting out of control. Come and join us - 7.15 pm for refreshments Free entry. Bar. www.energyalton.org.uk

Community Centre, Alton

Alton U3A Monthly Lecture – Fri 16 at 2 pm

Winchester Prison – Past and Present by Mark Watts, former Head of Security at the Winchester Prison, who retired in April of this year. There has been a gaol at Winchester since the 13th Century at Jewry Street (now a public house) and other sites in the City.. All welcome

Chawton Village Hall.

Chawton WI meeting - Wed 14 at 7:30pm.

Mark Willis will be demonstrating Reiki energy healing and sound therapy. Visitors welcome. Phone Anna 07887 690400 chawton_wi@outlook.com

Ropley Parish Hall, Vicarage Lane

Ropley Dramatic Society - Fri 16 - Sat 17 at 8 pm.

Prescription for Murder by Norman Robbins, A thriller /mystery / whodunnit, full length play with comedic touches and a very surprising ending. Tickets £8 from 01420 568265 or email janbennett42@outlook.com. www.ropleydrama.co.uk

Curtis Museum, Alton.

Alton Town Walk - Sat 17 at 11 am.

A guided walk around Alton where you will learn about the town's historic sites. Organised by Alton Community Association. £3 for adults and 50p for children (age 5 - 16). More information from the Community Centre. (01420 85057).

Community Centre, Alton

Alton U3A Monthly Lecture – Fri 16 at 2 pm

Phil Holt will reveal the history of the *Red Arrows*, the story of the creation of this magnificent display team, and some events from behind the scenes. All welcome

Four Marks Village Hall.

W I Food & Craft Easter Fair - Sat 17 10am to 2pm.



Cakes, Crafts, Plants, Books and more. Children's Games Corner. The Inspiration Cafe will serve morning coffee and light lunches. Entrance 20p (Children under 12 free)

Saturday Night Dancing - Sat 17 at 8 pm

Ballroom, Latin and Party Sequence dancing. Tickets £6.50. Please reserve in advance from Alan Amor on 07758 589441 or email alanamor@ymail.com. Further date: 5May, 16 June, 21 July.

Medstead Tennis Club, Roe Downs Road.

Drop in to Tennis - Sun 18 2 to 5 pm.

If you are returning to tennis or would love to have a go, come along. Drop in to the Open Afternoon and have a hit with some of the members. Tea and Cake provided. Rackets can be provided. No cost. The club caters for all levels and ages of players, from beginners to those who want to play inter-club competitions. Contact: 07710 704519 www.medsteadtennisclub.org.uk

Medstead Village Hall

Ceilidh 2018 - Sat 24 at 7 for 7:30 pm

The *Bursledon Village Band* will provide the music for Four Marks & Medstead Rotary Club's popular barn dance. Tickets £15 include a ploughman's supper and are available from Paul Smy 07974 203708; smallpii@hotmail.com. Cash bar, Champagne Prize Draw and raffle. Early Booking advised.

Gilbert White's House, Selborne

Mother's Day Sleepover - Sat 10 6pm to 8am.

Bring your Mum along to an exciting evening of nature activities at the Gilbert White Field Studies Centre and sleep in the 16th Century barn. All materials, refreshments and breakfast included. Booking Required. Children must be 5+yrs. Cost £25. One accompanying adult free).

Antarctic Lecture - Thur 22 at 7pm.

We are the albatrosses around their necks: Professor Richard Phillips is the leader of the Higher Predators and Conservation group at British Antarctic Survey, and works on the population, physiological and evolutionary ecology of seabirds, particularly albatrosses and petrels. His talk will be on the application of population, tracking and other monitoring data to understand and address threats to albatrosses, including from fisheries, invasive species and plastics. Tickets £15 www.gilbertwhiteshouse.org

For inclusion of your event in this feature send details by email to Editor@fourmarksnews.co.uk to arrive by 12th of the month prior to publication.

APRIL EVENTS

St Lawrence Church, Alton.

Alton Organ Society - Tue 3 at 8 pm.

Seventh organ concert in Alton Organ Society's 51st year given by Travis Baker, St.Mary's Church, Putney. Admission £10 at the door. For more information see www.altonorgansociety.co.uk

Church of the Good Shepherd, Four Marks. Spring Concert - Sat 21 at 7:30 pm

For more than 50 years Alder Valley Brass has performed at venues ranging from London's Royal Albert Hall, Windsor Castle, Epsom race course and Hampton Court Palace, to many of the UK's famous parks & bandstands. Much of the band's concert work is in support of local charities. Tickets £8 in advance (£10 on the night) 5 - 16 year olds free. www.aldervalleybrass.org.uk



We had a great end to 2017 here at Four Marks Tennis club. We have seen the rebranding from FM Sports and Social club to FM Tennis Club and a new committee with lots of enthusiasm to grow the club. **Brand new fencing** was installed last year with financial help from the Parish Council. We have also managed to purchase **new nets and posts** which will be ready to use for the start of the new membership season this spring.

Four Marks Tennis Club membership numbers have increased as adults and children take advantage of various coaching sessions offered at the club. Our new coaching provider for 2018 will be **coach me sports**; - www.coachmesports.co.uk. They will not only be providing tennis but a variety of multi sports so check out their website for further information.

Despite the change in the season the hardened few are still meeting with our resident coach Martin for an hour of coaching on a Monday or a Tuesday evening at Four Marks recreation ground. Please let us know if you are a member and would like to join the WhatsApp group. The group ranges from pure beginners to those wanting to revisit their tennis skills to those who have not played since school.

Why should I join Four Marks Tennis club? If your idea of tennis is to get a bit fitter and not be governed by stuffy rules then this is for you. Here at Four Marks we enjoy the social side of tennis as well as the fitness. Come and have a trial session or look out for one of our free coaching sessions throughout the year. Adults and children all welcome. Contact us on **Facebook** by searching **Four Marks Tennis club**.

For details on how to join the club or to book a court please visit us at: <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/fourmarkstennisclub/Membership/Join> Membership is just **£45** for adults which gives you British Tennis Membership and entry to the Wimbledon ballot.

If you are a local business and are interested in sponsorship this year please get in touch with the committee.

FOUR MARKS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

M. E. Cooper



The meeting on Monday 12th February was entitled "Bring a Friend with the well known Speaker John Negus hosting Q and A's". Sylvia Muskett (Treasurer) opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. This was followed by John Negus in his usual inimitable style providing answers to some rather difficult questions which as usual he helped along with free packets of seeds which were distributed with much hilarity. After this our Show Secretary Norman Day demonstrated with his very large and delightful cut-out daffodil how to distinguish the various classes of daffodil as specified by the RHS. It is hoped that this would help members when entering for the forthcoming Spring Show on the 24th March.



We then adjourned to sample the large selection of cakes with tea and coffee provided by the Committee, when visitors and members were encouraged to visit the various tables around the room. There were flower arranging accessories for sale, an up-cycling table of ideas produced by Pippa Cockhead, free supplies of lawn seed and conditioner, plus free packets of seeds and the usual plentiful raffle table. Members were also encouraged to vote for the 'flower of the month', which in spite of the cold and frosty weather, produced several entries.

John rounded off the latter part of the evening showing photographs of the many delightful gardens both local and further afield which he had visited, many of them when he was judging. He pointed out the beauty of mixing shrubs, and plants for contrast and impressed on the audience to be adventurous and branch out with planting of pots and hanging baskets.

The evening concluded with judging of the flower of the month - first was Myrtle Cooper with a Pieris (blooming very early in this altitude) Harry Martin was second with a Hellebore and Carole Pullen third with an Iris reticulata.

There is no evening meeting in March as the Society's SPRING SHOW will be on MARCH 24th in the Village Hall, open to the Public at 2.30.p.m after judging takes place in the morning.