

OUT & ABOUT IN APRIL

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

Chawton Village Hall.

Chawton WI meeting - Wed 11 at 7:30pm.

A talk on the work of the Cinnamon Trust which helps owners and their pets. Visitors welcome. Phone Anna 07887 690400 or Sam 07858 806943.

chawton_wi@outlook.com

Ropley Village Hall, Vicarage Lane

Learn to line Dance for Sport Relief- Sat 14 at 3pm

A fun way to raise money for Sport Relief. No special dress required. Tickets £5 (Children £2.50) to include tea and cake from The Courtyard Shop or Jan Hone 01962 772001 / Jenny Barron 01962 772441.

Community Centre, Alton

Glamrock 70s Disco - Sat 14 from 7 to 11pm.

GLAMFEST 2018 Dance the night away to the Glamrock sounds on original 7" Vinyl with Gammaster DJ Ian and the Time Machine Disco Come dressed in your best platforms and flares (optional), strut your glamtastic stuff. Bar open. Tickets £7 on the door or in advance. www.altoncomcen.org.uk

Alton U3A Monthly Lecture – Fri 20 at 2 pm

Catching Smugglers - Malcolm Nelson has been involved for some 40 years and shares his experiences of what gives them away and why some travellers are stopped and others not, and how drugs are detected. This is the first of two talks. All welcome.

Plastic Waste Awareness Event - Sat 21 from 10am to 2pm.

We can all do something to reduce our use of single-use plastics! Come and see what alternatives are already available from sandwich wrappers and kitchen wrap to nappies, hygiene products and cosmetics. Products - Ideas - Video Presentation - Refreshments -



Children's Activities. This is just the start of a continuing campaign by Energy Alton so drop in and find out what you can do, either by joining in or simply to cut your own plastic consumption. There will be further promotions in local media and the town - keep your eyes and ears open! www.energyalton.org.uk

Alton Library, Vicarage Hill, Alton.

Over the Alps - Tue 17 at 7:30pm

The History of the Watercress Line - Explore the history of our picturesque railway from its opening in 1865 through to its closure and near extinction in 1973, and re-opening in stages as a heritage railway from 1977. Discover how a rural station has become a preserved railway engineering hub and find out more about the line's impressive collection of locomotives to be found there. Spaces are limited so advance booking is essential. Tickets £4 from Alton Library: 01420 85734. www.hants.gov.uk/shop

Alton Maltings Centre, Maltings Close Alton.

Spring Concert- Sat 21 at 7:30pm.

Alton Concert Orchestra will perform Rossini's Overture, 'The Thieving Magpie'; Svendsen's 'Romance Op. 26 for Violin and Orchestra' and Dvorak's 9th Symphony 'From The New World' Tickets £10.00 from Waterstones, Alton. www.altonconcertorchestra.org.uk

Medstead Tennis Club, Roe Downs Road.

Cardio Tennis - Coffee Morning - Fri 20 from 9:15am.

If you would like to try Cardio Tennis or just drop in for coffee and to see the club, please come along. Coffee and Cake available. 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

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

Curtis Museum, Alton.

Alton Town Walk - Sat 21 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).

Alton Assembly Rooms, High Street, Alton

Dancing for Treloars - Fri 27 from 7:30 to 10:30pm.

Raising Funds for Treloars Students. 50/50 Dances, Ballroom, Latin and Social Sequence. Admission £5.00 (please bring your own refreshments). Pre-booking required as the numbers on the floor are limited. For information or to book please call Peter & Ysanne on 01420 89418. Future date: 26 May, 30 June, 1 Sept, 29 Sept, 3 Nov.

Treloar's College, Holybourne, GU34 4GL.

St Swithun's Way Walk & Run - Sun 29 from 9:15am.

A family and dog friendly day out, the route takes you from the Treloar campus in Holybourne through the glorious Hampshire countryside. You can choose to walk or run, 5 miles to Bentley or the full 10 miles to Farnham. Shuttle buses are provided to get you back to Treloar's and refreshments are also available. For more details or to register, please call 01420 547447, email catherine.bristow@treloar.org.uk: www.treloarevents.org.uk

Gilbert White's House, Selborne

Frank Oates in Africa - Mon 9 at 7pm.

To celebrate the opening of the new Frank Oates Gallery, historians Dr. John McAleer and Dr. Chris Prior from Southampton University give an exciting talk. Frank Oates' travels in 19th century Southern Africa made him an eyewitness to a period of momentous change in the region. At 6pm. There will be a short tour of the new gallery. Tickets £10

www.gilbertwhiteshouse.org.uk

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.

MAY EVENTS

Four Marks Village Hall.

Saturday Night Dancing - Sat 5 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: 16 June, 21 July.

Alton - various locations.

Alton Walking Festival - Tue 1 to Thur 31 May.

A variety of walks to entice everyone, from beginner to the experienced walker which will take in some of the best views available in Hampshire. All walks must be booked in advance and are free (travel costs are at the expense of the walker). You can either book walks online www.altonwalkingfestival18.eventbrite.co.uk or email community@alton.gov.uk.



It's been a cold couple of months but our coaching nights have still been going ahead on Tuesday evenings.

New for this Spring: don't forget to **renew your tennis membership** online at the end of the month (Please note this will no longer automatically renew and a code will be required to access the courts). The new nets and posts should be in place shortly which will complement our shiny new fencing.

A re-energised junior coaching programme is planned this year; see the website for details and look out for the Family fun tennis sessions at Four Marks

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.

The next issue of **FOUR MARKS NEWS** will be published on **Thursday 3rd May 2018**.

Contributions, including letters on local topics of interest and details of forthcoming events, are always welcome and should reach the Editor, **14 Lymington Rise, Four Marks, GU34 5BA** no later than **15th April** or you can email editor@fourmarksnews.co.uk.

We look forward to hearing from you!



Dr Emma Pidduck of the ECMWF – “Because weather matters”

A select band of around 16 members were lively entertained by Emma, a keen sailor and daughter of Andy and Sarah Pidduck. Emma explained how the European Centre for Medium range Weather Forecasts was established and how its forecasts are used world-wide across a wide spectrum of industries.

The ECMWF is at the forefront of research for numerical weather predictions, including probabilistic forecasting. The centre is based in Shinfield, Reading and its research enables it to remain the world's leading centre for global medium range weather forecasts. It is an independent intergovernmental organisation supported by most of the nations of Europe.

We learned that the first computer for modelling purposes was set up in 1975 but did not produce an operation forecast until 1979. As one might expect, current computer power and data store has since increased exponentially. Originally six centres were established to gather and process data and now 36 member states and co-operating states make up a geographic grouping. The Centre does not provide forecasts itself, which is left to individual Member States and customers to own, but provides data and probabilities of events occurring. Customers include IBM, Google and EDF to name but a few, covering 27 differing industries. Met centres world wide are buying ECMWF services. Some peak demands occur such as in farming (biggest growth area) or when Ferrero Rocher need to predict when all their chocolate is likely to melt!

Emma went on to explain that in order to make the Centre work, you need three ingredients: a very powerful super computer, a complex mathematical model and a whole series of observations across the globe (of which 90m are from satellites but of which total only 40m of the daily observations are used). The ECMWF has established itself so well that it now gets 7 day forecasting in the top percentile of accuracy and “Medium” sits within this range of between 3 to 10 days.

The message at the end from Emma was that we should not use just one forecast website when determining when to set out. It all depends on the webs's data sources and we learned that a good one to try was windy.com.

The next meeting is on April 13th when Andrew Negus will deliver his 3rd talk on Portsmouth 1870-1939.

On 23rd April (St. George's Day) 1616 William Shakespeare, playwright and poet died, aged 52. He left behind a wife, Anne, two daughters, Judith and Susanna as well as a wealth of literary treasures