

**Walking festival** <<

# Walking on sunshine



A weekend of guided walks around Alton gives you the chance to explore the town's picture-postcard sights as well as chills and thrills

Alton is Hampshire's first accredited Walkers are Welcome Town, a nationwide initiative to encourage more walkers and visitors.

First held in 2013, Alton Town Council once again hosts this walking festival on 16th and 17th May.

Linda Munday of Alton Town Council said: "We welcome you to a weekend of guided walks that give you the chance to explore the town and the beautiful surrounding countryside.

"Whether you are looking to delve into the town's history, enjoy the local shops or are a keen walker looking to enjoy a day, our programme will offer something for all ages and tastes.

"This year's festival will feature an English Civil War Walk visiting St Lawrence Church where the battle of Alton took place in 1643. There will also be a new tree walk led in the north of the town along with two brand new

ghost walks from Dark Encounters."

Walks you can join on Saturday, 16th May, include the Hangars Way – 21 miles from Queen Elizabeth Country Park, climbing up the Shoulder of Mutton Hill for spectacular views and a sarsen stone. More sedate options are the Bentley-to-Alton and Walking With Lions in Anstey Park walk, Alton History Walk with Jane Hurst, and a tree walk, photography walk, route around the Worldhams and family-friendly twilight ghost walk.

On Sunday, enjoy an Alton circular (19 miles), or a birding walk with Hampshire Ornithological Society, rambles around Holybourne and Froyle Shalden and Bentworth, a night train walk along the disused Meon Valley railway line (scene of a famous Cadbury's Milk Tray advert), river walk and several others.

Places are likely to book up, so visit [www.alton.gov.uk](http://www.alton.gov.uk) by May 10th for the full programmes or call **01420 83986**.



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