

# Newsletter

## May 2023

Welcome to the May 2023 edition of the newsletter. Well, what a month of major activity April has proved to be. The activity at Edgar Hall has been frantic. Thanks to everyone, who came to help out. We still need your help to finish the job, so please keep on coming.

They say that a picture is worth a thousand words so the photos below do a great job in capturing your activity at Edgar Hall.



For all those, who have been involved at Edgar Hall, can you **please make a note of how much time you have spent there so far and roughly what you were doing** (e.g. painting, assembling chairs, refurbishing benches) and let a member of the committee know. This will help your committee to estimate the value of our contribution to the works completed at Edgar Hall and help with accounting for grant funding.

Please continue to keep a record of your time and how it was spent on scraps of paper, a spreadsheet or whatever works for you. Simply put down the date, approximate hours and a couple of words to describe what you were doing. An example would be: Monday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2023/ 2.5 hours/ painting corridor.

The big event in May is the Annual General meeting. You will have been notified by email already but, as a reminder, it will be held at

**All Saints Church Parish Hall  
On Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 10.00am**

The AGM will be followed by a social gathering so please try to get there. It will be your chance to elect trustees and committee members for the coming year.

### Community Projects Update

We had a great write up in the local papers about the planters at Alton Infants' School.

# Planting a hedge will clean the air at Alton Infant School

By [Paul Coates](#)

30th March 2023

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A hedge has been planted along the front of the playground at Alton Infant School. The project is a collaboration between the school, the Guild of Optimists and Alton Men's Shed. It began after a meeting on the school's travel plan between the school, Hampshire County Council and Annie Lancaster, co-founder of the guild.

It comprises 160 individual native plants, one for every child in the school. Each child had a chance to get their hands dirty and plant their seedling, learn about nature and enjoy being part of establishing the hedge.

Funded by community grants from East Hampshire district councillors Suzie Burns, Richard Platt, Paula Langley, Stephen Dolan and Steve Hunt, the flowering hedge will increase biodiversity in the school grounds, contribute to a green corridor through Alton to support bird and insect life, and improve privacy at the school.

Annie suggested a hedge to the school after seeing an investigation by Channel 4's *Dispatches* which showed ivy screens installed at a London primary school cut playground air pollution by 53 per cent.

She said: "The school are taking a really proactive step to protect the health and happiness of Alton's children. I'm so delighted they've taken this on, despite the enormous pressures schools are currently facing."

After the guild secured funding for the plants it learned digging into the ground along the front of the school would not be possible. But a team of Alton Men's Shed volunteers built wooden planters.

Annie said: "The men's shed were so inventive in coming up with ideas to suit the uneven ground. I'm really thankful for their help and generosity on this project." Thanking all involved, Alton Infant School headteacher Richard Mead said: "Plants bedded around playgrounds can help to reduce toxins in the air and make for a much more appealing space."

There's not a great deal of other activity on this front this month due to the huge amount of work that has needed to be completed at Edgar Hall.

Dave did a great job restoring a bench for Holybourne Village Association.

**Volunteers are urgently needed** to help out with the planned activities for the Beavers' groups in Greenfield and Wooteys. Dates are 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> May and 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> June. Input by AMS members has been very gratefully received and if we don't get volunteers to help, we will have to stop doing this type of project. See Mike for details.

## Raising Funds

AMS has signed up to the East Hampshire Community Lottery. Tickets are £1.00 each a week and if you chose AMS as your charity, we get 60p for every ticket and you get a chance to win up to £25,000.00.

To register, follow this link:

<https://www.easthantslottery.co.uk/account/login?returnUrl=%2F> or Google "East Hampshire Community Lottery" and follow the links to sign up. Simple!



**PLAY NOW**  
TO BOOST OUR FUNDRAISING



• Help give our fundraising a boost • Tickets cost just £1 a week  
• Win up to £25,000

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Supporters must be 16 years or