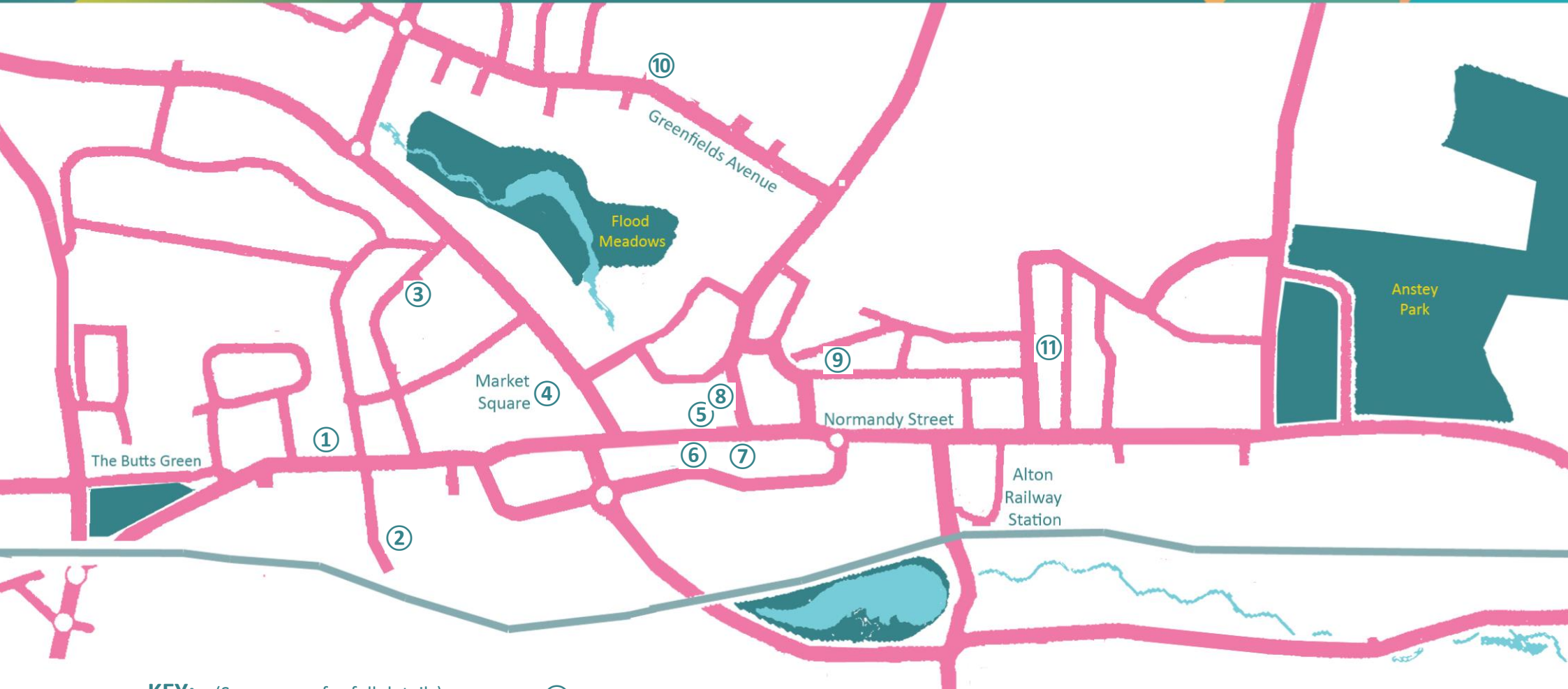




Street Stories



KEY: (See reverse for full details)

- ① 22 Butts Road
- ② 8 Tower Street
- ③ 60 Ackender Road

- ④ Dill Cafe, Market Square
- ⑤ Goldfinch Books, 24 High St
- ⑥ Resurrection Furniture, 21b High St
- ⑦ Curtis Museum, High St

- ⑧ Allen Gallery, 10-12 Church Street
- ⑨ 10 Chauntsingers Road
- ⑩ 42 Greenfields Avenue
- ⑪ 17 Park Close Road

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Street Stories is a project at the heart of Alton Arts Festival which celebrates local creativity and skills.

1

The Alligator from the novel *Swamplandia* by Karen Russell. Location: 22 Butts Road, GU34 1NB. Front of the house above the door.

"I chose this character because it happened to be the book I was reading at the time, so I decided to take an element from this very surreal ghost story that I was reading, featuring a family of female alligator wrestlers (A book which had been recommended that week at the Goldfinch Book Club no less!) because... well, who wouldn't be intrigued by a ghost story / alligator wrestling combo?! The Butts Road Alligator is made out of chicken wire, papier mache, plaster 'Mod Roc' bandages, and a big dollop of amateur sculpting enthusiasm."

Mog the Cat from the Mog the Forgetful Cat book series by Judith Kerr. Location: 8 Tower Street, GU34 1NS. Look on the roof!

2

3 **The BFG from Roald Dahl's book of the same name. Location: 60 Ackender Road, GU34 1JS.** Front garden.

"The BFG has always intrigued me.... I particularly love the fantastical, topsy turvy world he inhabits - from whizz pops and snozzcumbers to the fearsome blood-bottling giants and how his gentle nature and friendship with little Sophie develops. I am a woodworker and enjoy building large structures and sculptures, so the BFG presented an exciting challenge. I hope you enjoy this gentle giant's visit to Alton before he returns to giant country.... "

Vote for your favourite at www.altonartsfestival.com/street-stories



street stories

4

Ratty's Picnic from Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Grahame. Location: Dill Café, 8 Cross and Pillory Lane (off market Square), GU34 1HL. Window display on Westbrooke Walk side of cafe.

"I have always loved The Wind in the Willows - the enchanting mix of nature, tradition, adventure and friendship - and as a big fan of eating I also always enjoy a mouth watering food description, and the passage about Ratty's Picnic marries these two things together perfectly! I definitely identify with Mole as I read this, my heart leaping with each delicious addition to the picnic menu - good old Ratty!"

I created my characters through needle felting, making a wire skeleton base which I then pad out with raw wool and work over with needles adding colour and texture as I go. I am fairly new to needle felting - it's something I only picked up a couple of years ago - but I really enjoy the process which, to me, combines features of painting, sculpture and fabric craft with a touch of taxidermy thrown in for good measure. My favourite part is adding the details towards the end and attempting to bring real character and expression to my creations."

Stickman from Julia Donaldson's book of the same name. Location: Goldfinch Books, 24 High St, Alton GU34 1BN. Front window.

5

"Stickman is one of the original Street Stories characters and has, in fact, already been welcoming visitors to Goldfinch bookshop for the past six months! In that time, this favourite character has helped out the festival marketing team by wearing official merchandise and advertising events on his chalk board. Proof...if needed.... that there's so much more to the character than just a simple stick!"

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The Gruffalo, from Julia Donaldson's book series.
Location: Resurrection Furniture, 21B High Street, Alton, GU34 1AW. Front window.

"Many of us, big kids and little, have enjoyed the gentle rhyming story of the fearsome Gruffalo. This modern classic of children's literature is such a popular character, we are delighted that he has decided to emerge from his woodland habitat for the duration of the festival. Enjoy spotting him on the High Street, as he's very difficult to find once he returns to his woodland lair!"

The Alton Dodo, a legendary - once real - character, who now lives on in books and in our very own county museum archives.

Location: Curtis Museum, High Street, Alton, GU34 1BA
- outside the front entrance

7

"The Curtis Museum is one of the few institutions to have owned the bones of this now legendary bird, after they were donated to its founder William Curtis in 1866 by his friend George Clark, who excavated them on Mauritius. We are proud to tell the important story of the dodo, its plight and extinction, and how our museum in Alton came to be offered some of the best preserved remains (currently being safely stored off site). We chose this as the subject for our entry as an opportunity to be part of the festival and share some dodo information and stories along the way - especially as loss of species is now such an important issue.

The Alton dodo was made by our brilliant team of volunteers, who invite you to drop by and help suggest a name for this feathered friend!"

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8

The Caterpillar, Mad Hatter and Dormouse from Alice in Wonderland, by Lewis Carroll. Location: Allen Gallery, 10-12 Church St., Alton, GU34 2BW. Front window, cafe side (plus an extended display inside, in the garden bay window).

"This work was made by the Friendship Cafe community group, in collaboration with Carol Scicluna, Needle Felt artist, www.felterfriends.co.uk.

Our display in the Allen Gallery window includes various characters from the magical tale of Alice in Wonderland, in particular a needle-felted White Rabbit with gold pocket watch and a needle-felted Dormouse, asleep in a ceramic cup. Both works were made by Carol.

The Friendship Cafe members have also created the hookah-smoking Caterpillar (who floats above the display), various Mad Hatter hats, some Eat Me biscuits and a Drink Me bottle. Inside the gallery you will also find an extended display featuring an Alice in Wonderland Mural, painted by Toni Goffe, member of the Friendship Cafe; more Mad Hatter hats, created by the group (many thanks to Goldfinch Bookshop for the coffee cups!); a sunflower teapot with a needle felted mouse, created by Moira Baldwin, member of the Friendship Cafe. We have also created a Fly Agaric Toadstool Hat - drop by to take a selfie wearing this magical headgear in the gallery garden! Further information about the Community Group, The Friendship Cafe, is also available."

Matilda, from Roald Dahl's book of the same name. Location: 10 Chauntsingers Road, Alton, GU34 2DX. Front garden.

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Matilda is a great favourite in this house. What's not to admire about a book-loving rebel with a strong sense of justice?

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Two characters: 'Dog Man' display, from Dav Pilkey's Dog Man books. Location: 42 Greenfields Avenue, GU34 2EE (about halfway along the avenue). Ground floor window.

"Dav Pilkey was diagnosed with ADHD and dyslexia as a child. At school, he was frequently excluded from class. While sitting outside in the corridor, he started to create his own original comics. Dav's teachers told him he'd never amount to anything, but he's now an internationally loved, bestselling children's author: so that showed them! Dog Man is one of my favourite Dav Pilkey characters, along with Cat Kid and Captain Underpants. Dav's books inspire me to write and draw my own comics too."

Peter Rabbit themed window inspired by Beatrix Potter's books. Location: Front first floor window of house, visible from the street/pavement.

"I love Peter Rabbit because he is cheeky and always getting into mischief!"

Supertato and Evil Pea from the Supertato book series by Sue Hendra. Location: 17 Park Close Road, Alton, GU34 2HA. Front window.

11

We have created the delightfully silly Supertato and Evil Pea from papier mache on a wire and string frame, with a lot of assistance from the chief Supertato fan in the house, our 4 year old. We love laughing at the antics of Evil Pea, and how Supertato's kindness to his friends always wins the day!

All characters have been made by local residents and community groups. For entries displayed at private addresses we kindly ask that residents' privacy is respected and any queries are addressed to info@altonartsfestival.com.

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