

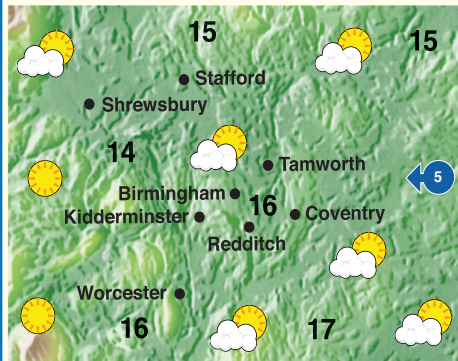


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WEATHER FORECAST

Fine conditions, as it will be sunny and dry with just a little patchy cloud. Warmer with just a gentle easterly breeze. Max temp 16-19C (61-66F).



Four-day outlook

TONIGHT	TOMORROW	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
CLEAR SPELLS			
13C (55F) 2C (36F)	18C (64F) 3C (37F)	18C (64F) 4C (39F)	17C (63F) 7C (45F)

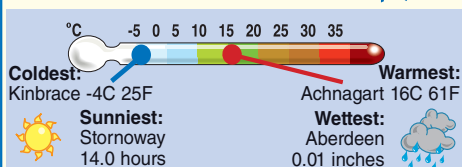
Sun & Moon

Sunrise	5.59am	Sunset	8.14pm	Lighting up times:
Moonrise	7.11am	Moonset	10.29pm	8.14pm to 5.57am

Around Britain

		yesterday		today		
		°C	°F	°C	°F	
Aberdeen	fair	11	52	cloudy	12	54
Belfast	fair	13	55	fair	13	55
Birmingham	cloudy	11	52	sun	16	61
Brighton	cloudy	11	52	sun	18	64
Cardiff	fair	12	54	sun	18	64
Edinburgh	cloudy	11	52	cloudy	14	57
Leeds	cloudy	9	48	fair	12	54
Liverpool	cloudy	12	54	sun	14	57
London	cloudy	12	54	sun	18	64
Manchester	cloudy	12	54	fair	16	61
Newcastle	fair	10	50	fair	13	55
Torquay	fair	12	54	sun	15	59

Yesterday's extremes (24 hours to 2pm)



Barometer Check: 1031mb at 6pm today
Air Pollution: Low

Around the World

		yesterday		today	
		°C	°F	°C	°F
Amsterdam	fair	12	54	sun	17 63
Athens	fair	22	72	cloudy	18 64
Barcelona	fair	19	66	fair	19 66
Berlin	fair	14	57	sun	18 64
Corfu	fair	21	70	sun	21 70
Costa del Sol	sun	25	77	sun	21 70
Cyprus	sun	22	72	sun	24 75
Hong Kong	fair	28	82	rain	29 84
Jamaica	sun	31	88	sun	31 88
Los Angeles	sun	22	72	fair	19 66
Majorca	sun	22	72	sun	21 70
Miami	cloudy	32	90	thunder	31 88
Moscow	cloudy	4	39	snow	5 41
New York	sun	14	57	thunder	15 59
Paris	sun	18	64	sun	21 70
Rome	showers	18	64	fair	18 64
Sydney	rain	22	72	showers	17 63
Tenerife	sun	22	72	fair	22 72

Information supplied by MeteoGroup

It's a kind of magic...

'ENCHANTED VILLAGE' IS LIKE A FAIRYTALE COME TRUE AT ALTON TOWERS

Adrian Caffery

Features Staff
adrian.caffery@trinitymirror.com

ALTON Towers opened its Enchanted Village to the public on Saturday and the fairies allowed the Birmingham Mail a sneak peek.

The huge new development, next to the Staffordshire theme park's two hotels, includes 125 magical lodges (including five luxury treehouses) a themed restaurant, children's play areas and a high ropes course.

Here's what we learned about this land of forest spirits and little fable folk...

► The lodges

The 120 Hobbit-style, two-bedroom Woodland Lodges have wonky roofs and crooked chimneys.

Inside these rustic buildings are little doors and windows for the "little folk". They are semi-detached, sleep five people and have 32 inch TVs, drinks making facilities, a mini outdoor decking area and free wifi.

► The treehouses

The five individually-designed treehouses sleep up to eight people in four bedrooms.

They feature 50-inch plasma TVs, a games console and a private hot tub on a sheltered outdoor decking area. They also come equipped with a dishwasher and full self-catering facilities.

► The play areas

These are dotted around the village so young guests are only ever a hop, skip and jump from a slide, seesaw, or climbing frame.

► High ropes course

The Tree Top Quest, due to open on May 22, will feature two courses for different age groups.

Children will be able to swing from trees as they navigate the forest before hurtling back to the ground on the 85m zip wire.

► After dark

At night the village takes on a whole new level of enchantment, as its wildlife lights up whilst the faint sound of whispering "little folk" fills the air! The Great Oak illuminates with hundreds of fairy lights and a glowing mushroom trail leads guests to The Crooked Spoon for dinner.

► The restaurant

The Enchanted Village is home to its own quirky restaurant, the Crooked Spoon, which serves breakfast and dinner. There's evening entertainment.

A 10z rump steak is £14.95 and ale-battered cod and chips is £11.95.

► The cost

Prices for Woodland Lodges start at £117 for two adults and £157.50 for five adults, which works out at £31.25 per person per night when booked in advance at altontowers.com, representing some of the cheapest accommodation at the resort.



■ Cerys Caffery, four, enjoying The Enchanted Village at Alton Towers



■ Youngsters enjoy 'the world's largest children's book' at the launch



■ Insta-Gran – the world's first granny bedtime reading service

Crooks 'paid to get jailed' and smuggle in drugs

GANGS are paying small-time crooks to deliberately get jailed so they can be stuffed with drugs to take inside.

Villains serving sentences sell the stashes from the "mules" and some are netting tens of thousands of pounds, a former inmate

revealed. The ex-con, who was in Birmingham Prison, said: "The gangs target low-level shoplifters and addicts who don't care if they get

jailed. Targets are told to commit the crime in view of security guards or CCTV and plead guilty to get a short sentence."

The Ministry of Justice said: "Prisons use a comprehensive range of robust searching and security measures."

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TOMORROW BIRMINGHAM MAIL

TV LISTINGS: SEE PAGE 24