



Recycling wars!

Alton versus Farnham

Why it doesn't always pay to be an early adopter.

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Why do they recycle so much more in Farnham?

We in ACAN regularly get asked why Hampshire recycles so little compared to other counties.

Phinna Brealey has been our waste and recycling guru for many years now and has summarised her answer as follows:

"Almost any kind of waste can technically be recycled but not every waste stream can be reprocessed at a profit. Glass, paper and PET plastics for example, have well established reprocessing routes and local authorities can sell them on to plants that make money selling on the products from their processes. This is "profitable recycling". Other materials, many types of flexible plastic for example, could be made into useful product, but the cost of collecting and reprocessing is more than the resultant material will fetch when sold on to a new manufacturer. This is "expensive recycling" and tends not to happen.

Hampshire was one of the first counties to adopt kerbside recycling and had early-design sorting facilities (MRFs Material Recovery Facilities) installed in different locations. These plants cost huge amounts to build and certain levels of payback are expected for periods of say 30 years. It would cost millions to buy out of the contract and install more up to date equipment. In the late 90s Hampshire opted to ask householders to sort their waste and only put specific materials in their bins. In other areas like Farnham, you can put a much bigger range of items in the recycling bin, but that does not mean it is all recycled. They have more sophisticated sorting facilities which pick out items that can be reprocessed profitably, but what's left goes into incinerators or landfill."

ACAN has been collecting certain items for recycling through TerraCycle, an organisation that gets manufacturers to sponsor the recycling of their specific product wrappers. So Warburtons will pay to have any make of bread bag recycled and Taylors of Harrogate sponsor the recycling of any coffee and tea packaging. Our volunteers decided to stop collecting for Terracycle in February this year. See below for details of new Terracycle collection points.

Terracycle has moved

Following ACAN's Action on Plastic Team's decision to stop collecting for Terracycle, we are delighted to report the Eco church team at the Parish of the Resurrection (POTR) have decided to step up and take over collections of flexible tea and coffee packaging. Many thanks to all concerned.



Julie Howe and her Eco church team are keen to get the recycling message out to as many people as possible and collecting boxes have been installed in Alton library as well as in 3 churches in the Parish: **St Lawrence, All Saints and Holy Rood Church in Holybourne.**

If it proves popular then other lines and boxes may be added but it is currently limited to flexible tea and coffee packaging.

To find out more contact Julie via office@potr-alton.co.uk

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Dates for your diary

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- [Guided Walks in Nature](#) starting Sat 6th April
- [Alton Community Share](#) Sat 13th Apr 10am-12noon, St Lawrence Parish Centre GU34 2BW
- [Alton Repair Cafe](#) Sat 13th Apr 10:30-12:30 Alton Community Centre, GU34 1HN
- [Schools workshops](#) starting 15th April
- [Sustainable Eating Making it Work](#) Thu 18th Apr 7:3-9pm, Alton Community Centre, GU34 1HN
- [Net Zero Public Meeting](#) Thu 9th May 7pm Alton Community Centre, GU34 1HN
- [Our Future Energy Landscape](#) Wed 15th May Alton Community Centre, GU34 1HN
- [Talk on Swifts](#) Wed 22nd May 7:30pm Alton Community Centre, GU34 1HN

Other ways to help

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The Future of ACAN

We are delighted to report that some progress is being made on the transition to a new management team for ACAN.

However there are still key tasks that need to be taken on, particularly the bookkeeping. This is not too time consuming at a half to an hour a week. If you are numerate and have basic spreadsheet skills do think of stepping forward - there will be a thorough handover from the present incumbent.

Email altonclimatenetwork@gmail.com if you want to know more.

The Greening Alton Map is now Online

AVLAN's new *Greening Alton* project aims to map and encourage the linking of, green spaces of all kinds around Alton, to improve local biodiversity and create nature corridors for insects. [The Greening Alton Map is now online.](#)

[Find out more on our website.](#) To join in, get in touch with Jenny on altonclimatenetwork@gmail.com



Cutting down the meat and dairy in our diets has been shown to be one of the highest impact ways to reduce our personal contribution to greenhouse gas emissions. Better still this is something that is entirely under our own control and benefits our own health as well as the planet.

At previous meetings we have talked about why livestock farming is so damaging to the climate and environment. Then looked at why eating less meat and dairy benefits our own health as well.

Our next session on 18th April will be looking at the practicalities of making the necessary swaps in our diets. Everyone is welcome even if you missed the earlier sessions and if you want to know more do take a look at the [articles written by ACAN's plant-based food consultant Dee Panes](#) on our website.

Some Good News

East Hants District Council have advised us that the government is making [grants available for residents who do not have off street parking to have an Electric Vehicle Charge Point installed.](#)

The grant covers up to 75%, to a maximum of £350, of the installation cost.

This is available to renters as well as home owners.

More good news from EHDC is that Alton Sports Centre is to be fitted with solar panels and batteries thanks to a grant from the Swimming Pool Support Fund run by the Government and Sports England.

PeCAN (Petersfield Climate Action Network) have produced an excellent blog summarising the improvements to DEFRA's **Agricultural Transition Plan**, making it easier for farmers to take up the various grants available to help them combine food production with environmental land management. [Find out more here.](#)

Dates for your diary

ACAN's Monthly Litter Pick

The next litter pick will be on Thu 4th April from 10am - 12 noon

Meet at the Football Club Car Park in Anstey Park, GU34 2NB

Please email if you can make it to give us an idea of numbers plasticacan@gmail.com

You might enjoy this short poem by Brian Bilston:

Confessions of a Professional Litter Picker

It's hard not to feel bitter about the litter,
Crotchety and cruppish about the rubbish,
Ill-disposed to all those who ill dispose,
But at least business is picking up, I suppose.

[See Brian Bilston's website](#) for another lovely poem entitled "Today's Climate Forecast"



Free Guided Walks in Nature

Led by ACAN's Eco-Streets project consultant Scott Gudrich who is a trained environmental scientist and educator.

The walks last 90 mins, at a slow pace, and are suitable for adults and children

Meet at Alton Cricket Club, Northfield Lane, GU34 1SN for all except the bats walk which sets off from the Rivermead entrance to the Cala site on the old brewery site, GU34 1UR.

With grateful thanks to our EHDC councillors Suzie Burns & Steve Hunt for providing the funding.

Saturday 6th April at 4pm Alton Cricket Club, Northfield Ln, Alton GU34 1SN
MYTHS AND FAIRYTALES - THE LEGENDS BEHIND OUR LOCAL NATURE

Did you know that it's dangerous to walk through the bluebell woods because you could easily be snatched by the fairies? Or that pieces of beech wood were thought to bring good fortune to the wearer? Dive with us into the Celtic mythology behind common plants and animals of the British Isles and stock up on stories you can tell your children!

Sunday 7th April at 12 noon Rivermead entrance to Cala Estate, GU34 1UR
LOCAL BATS

Find out about the various species of bats in the many green spaces in Alton – and in our gardens too. Feel more connected to nature and appreciate its importance in our lives.

Sunday 7th April at 4pm Alton Cricket Club, Northfield Ln, Alton GU34 1SN
POETRY WALK - MINDFULLY RE-WILDING OURSELVES

This walk takes a small group of people out into nature. Before the walk, Scott who is also an artist, will give some easy to follow input regarding the local ecosystem as well as guidance on the writing of a poem. After a silent, contemplative walk of approximately 20 minutes, the group will settle down

somewhere and Scott will take them through some guided contemplation and present an easy to follow outline to get everyone writing poetry based on their sensory and emotional experiences in nature. Participants should bring a pen and paper/notebook

Saturday 13th April at 4pm Alton Cricket Club, Northfield Ln, Alton GU34 1SN
LOCAL WILDLIFE

From the conspicuous squirrels and deer to the elusive harvest mice and adders, Alton and the surrounding area has a lot to offer when it comes to wildlife. This walk will take participants through the woods and hills where we will hopefully catch some glimpses of the diverse wildlife. Scott will talk about the lives of some of the most common species, fostering a sense of the importance of a diverse ecosystem and explaining the threats it faces and what we can do to protect it.



Alton Community Share

April sessions Sat 13th & 27th

Reduce waste & save money at this free library of jigsaws, games, toys and activities.

2nd & 4th Saturday of the month at St Lawrence's Parish Centre
10am to 12 noon

Next Session Sat 13th April

Bring your items for repair along to Alton Community Centre from 10:30am to 12:30pm on:

13th April, 25th May, 20th July, 7th September, 2nd November, 14th December

The repair team will be at your service to assist and advise you on repairs to small household items and textiles.



Volunteers to help with primary school workshops

ACAN is offering a series of eco workshops on the topics of "Water" and "Carbon" in primary schools in Alton and surrounding villages.

These will be led by Scott Gudrich our EcoStreets project manager and educator. He is looking for volunteers to assist with the delivery of these workshops: It is not challenging - just a bit of help sticking up quiz sheets around the room while Scott does the introduction and then floating around between tables during the creative phase, assisting children if they need any help or are stuck for ideas. The whole workshop takes around 2hours.

Prior experience working with children would be ideal, specialist knowledge on the topics is not required.

Currently confirmed dates are:

April 15th Butts School (Year 3)

April 22nd Rowledge School (Eco Day)

April 24th Chawton (Year 5/6)

April 29th Butts School (Year 3)

email ecostreetsalton@gmail.com for more information and/or to volunteer.

Alton Sustainable Eating - Healthy Food Healthy Planet

At our third sustainable eating event we will be focussing on practical tips and recipes for cheap, tasty and nutritious plant-based meals. Come along to learn from our successes and failures! Find out what swaps work and how to make your own plant-based parmesan equivalent!



Alton Sustainable Eating
Healthy Food Healthy Planet

Making it work

Plant-based cooking is too difficult!
You need all sorts of weird ingredients.
You can't eat out.

Join us for tips and practical advice
and an all important food tasting

7:30-9pm on Thu 18th April

Alton Community Centre, GU34 1HN

Register at
altonclimatenetwork@gmail.com



Energy Alton Public Meeting

The Why, What & How of Net Zero

Jon Saltmarsh, the Chief Technology Officer of the [Energy Systems Catapult](#) will be the main speaker. Jon has a huge amount of experience in the energy sector – until January 2023 he was responsible for net zero engineering, research and technical advice at the predecessor to the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero.

There will also be an opportunity to hear from leading District and Town Councillors about how both East Hampshire District Council and Alton Town Council are working on their new climate change strategies and action plans.

All welcome – free entry

More info on the Energy Systems Catapult at <https://es.catapult.org.uk/>

The poster features a blue header with the title 'THE WHY, WHAT & HOW OF NET ZERO' in bold white text. Below this, on a dark background, is the date and time 'Thursday 9th May 7.00pm' and the location 'Alton Community Centre' in white text. The bottom section contains three circular icons: a teal circle with a water drop, a lightning bolt, a car, and a wind turbine; a dark grey circle with a power line tower; and a teal triangle with a red bar chart and the text 'CO₂'.

Energise South Downs Workshop

Our Future Energy Landscapes
Wed 15th May 7pm - 9:30pm
Alton Community Centre GU34 1HN

Join our local renewable energy non-profit organisation Energise South Downs for an exciting workshop in Alton exploring how we can power our communities using locally generated renewable energy sources.

Energise South Downs, supported by **East Hampshire District Council** and the **South Downs National Park Authority** are hosting a roadshow of workshops to discover the types and scale of renewable energy that could meet the needs of local people within their areas. Drawing on data and

research we explore what might be feasible and create space for an informed, balanced conversation about what communities feel is acceptable.

See <https://esd.energy/events> for more information and to book a free place



Swifts - a talk by Catherine Gale

7:30pm Wednesday 22nd May at Alton Community Centre

Please join us for this fascinating talk on swifts.

Catharine Gale, a trustee of [Hampshire Swifts](#), will tell us how to identify swifts and distinguish them from swallows and martins, the incredible life history of this enigmatic species, their migration patterns and their current status. Shockingly, swifts have declined by more than 50% in the last 20 years, owing to a number of factors including the loss of suitable nesting sites. The charity's objective is to reverse the decline of swifts in Hampshire.

Some people in Alton have already had swift boxes installed through an **Eco-Streets** initiative funded by **Alton Town Council's Community Infrastructure Levy**. We look forward to welcoming back some of these lovely birds.

New Textiles Recycling Banks at Treloars

The one in the visitor car park is accessible to the local community and accepts:

- All clothes
 - Paired shoes
 - Curtains
 - Belts and bags
 - Towels
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- Bed Linen
- Blankets

The textile banks cannot accept pillows, duvets and cushions.

The banks will be emptied regularly and Treloar's will receive a donation for the amount collected.

We are hoping to raise further funds by placing recycling banks in the local community – if you have a location that could house a bank please do get in touch with fundraising@treloar.org.uk or call 01420 547477

Volunteer with ACAN

Here in ACAN we have a range of groups already set up and many more ideas of things we would like to do if we had more volunteers, and, of course, you may have ideas of your own you would like to pursue. It doesn't matter how much or how little time you can spare we have volunteering opportunities to suit.

To get involved do fill in our [volunteers form](#)

Or just email altonclimatenetwork@gmail.com and let us know what you would like to do

As ACAN has grown so have our costs.

Most grants do not cover running costs, such as insurance, zoom subscription, examination of accounts.

If you can help with one off or regular donations please use the button below for our CAF donate page.

Many thanks.

[Donate to ACAN](#)
