



Welcome to December's Newsletter!

**Season of Giving: Providing Hope, Planting for the Future,
and Food for Thought.**

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Diary Dates

Tuesday 9th December 6 - 6:45pm: [Gumbi Emergency Food Appeal briefing via Zoom](#)

Saturday 13th December 2 – 4pm: Community Share

Featuring a new collection of toys, puzzles, games and more, with lots for children (and parents) of all ages. A fun and friendly initiative to support local families and entertain children whilst also making excellent use of available resources and reducing waste. Come along with your family, enjoy playing with our extensive range of toys, have a cuppa and a chat. **Held at St Lawrence Parish Centre.**

Saturday 13th December 12 - 1:30pm: Welcoming Winter – Guided Ecology Walk

Join ACAN's Scott Gudrich for a gentle, family-friendly walk exploring seasonal changes, local wildlife, and the quiet beauty of winter arriving. Suitable for all ages and free of

charge. **Meet at Chawton Car Park.**
This is the last Eco-Streets walk of 2025!

Monday 15th December 6pm: [Alton Parish Meeting on King's Pond](#)

Saturday 31st January 6:15pm: [SustainaBites Presents "Food for Thought" Film Screening](#)

Emergency Food Appeal for the Gumbi Villages in Malawi

After a very poor harvest in early 2025 due to drought, Malawi is facing its worst food crisis and the Malawian government has declared a state of disaster. At the request of the Gumbi Chief Edwin Mponela, and the Group Village Headmen in the surrounding villages, ACAN has launched an emergency appeal for funds for maize distribution to 500 households in the Gumbi villages who are running out of food. £30 will feed an extended family for 3 months until the April harvest.

To learn more about this terrible situation, ACAN is holding an appeal briefing with 2 members of the Gumbi Malawian team who will explain and answer questions. Join ACAN's briefing meeting on Zoom on **Tuesday 9th December 6.00 – 6.45 pm**, with James Gomani and Chipiliro Chimazileni from the Gumbi Alton Permaculture Community Training Centre in Malawi.

To join the online meeting **please email** Altonclimatenetwork@gmail.com **for the Zoom link.**

Alton Parish Meeting on King's Pond

A group of residents has called a "Parish Meeting" to discuss King's Pond on **15th December, at 6pm in Alton Community Centre**. While the meeting is being arranged by Alton Town Council, it is not a council meeting, under rules set out in the Local Government Act 1972. The meeting will be open to the public. Only those on the Electoral Register for Alton and Holybourne will be able to vote on anything that is proposed at the meeting.

The main item of business is a discussion on whether to call for a "Parish Poll" (similar to a referendum) on King's Pond and, if residents want to do this, what the question will be. If the meeting agrees on a question, East Hampshire District Council must run the poll in January, with the estimated £10,000 cost being charged to Alton Town Council. The law

makes clear that the result of the poll is for the Town Council to consider and is not binding.

As each attendee will be checked when they arrive to see if they are on the Electoral Register and they will be given a voting card, there may be a slight delay to the start of the meeting.

What is a Parish Meeting?

It is not a Town Council meeting. It is a meeting of electors that, under specific conditions set out in the Local Government Act 1972, can be called by six electors on an issue that is within the power of a local council. The meeting is open to the public, but only those on the Electoral Register are allowed to vote on any of the issues that will be discussed. If the Mayor is present, she must chair the meeting.

How will you make sure that only Electors are able to vote in the Parish Meeting?

The council will check everyone against the Electoral Register when they arrive and give them a voting card. If you are not on the Register, you may attend but will not get a voting card. This will probably delay the start of the meeting a little and we urge everyone to be patient. The meeting will not start if people are still queuing to get in.

What is a Parish Poll?

This is a vote that is like a referendum, in which a question can be put to all those in a parish who are in the Electoral Register. The question to be asked in the Poll is decided during a Parish Meeting by a majority vote. The Poll has to take place within 25 working days and is run by East Hampshire District Council: so, by Thursday, 22 January 2026. Polling stations on polling day are open from 4pm to 9pm. There are no poll cards and no postal or electronic voting. The result of the Parish Poll has to be considered by the council; it is not binding. The poll is paid for by the Town Council from its income from local council taxpayers and is expected to cost around £10,000 in Alton. East Hampshire District Council runs the poll and charges Alton Town Council.

What will the question be?

It is up to the Parish Meeting to decide whether to call for a Parish Poll. If ten Electors present demand a Poll, the whole meeting has to decide what the question will be. The question must be able to be acted on by the council and be answered by either Yes or No.

For further details please see [ATC Parish Meeting Notices](#).

Purchase Bare-Root Fruit Trees at a Discounted Price

ACAN and ALFI are again partnering with PeCAN for their brilliant 'Fruit Tree in Every Garden' project. Orders are now being taken until 31st December; although tree availability is limited and last year we sold out before the deadline.

The collection date for ordered trees is Saturday 17th January in the morning at Edgar Hall, Anstey Park, in partnership with Alton Men's Shed - we couldn't do this without their support.

Register your interest in purchasing discounted fruit trees at the following link --> [PECAN Fruit Tree in Every Garden](#)

**A FRUIT TREE
IN EVERY GARDEN**

BUY A DISCOUNTED FRUIT TREE!

**2 YEAR OLD BARE-ROOT TREE
STAKE & TIE
ONLY**

£21.50

USUAL COST £30 - £60



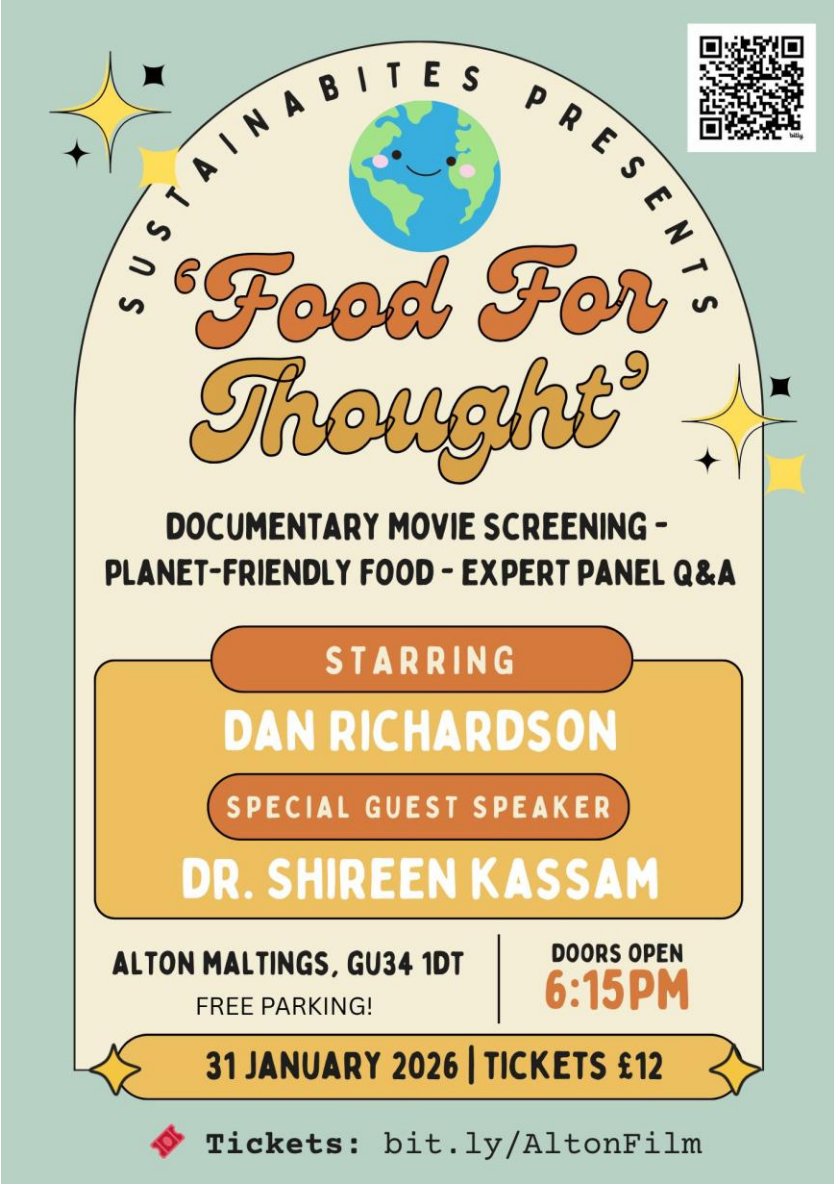
     

SustainaBites to Present "Food for Thought"

SustainaBites is proud to bring the acclaimed documentary "Food For Thought" to Alton—a film that blends humour, heart, and hope to explore how everyday food choices can help build a healthier, more sustainable future.

Following the screening, we'll be joined by Dr Shireen Kassam, Consultant Haematologist and Honorary Senior Lecturer at King's College Hospital, for a lively discussion on how small shifts in our food systems can make a big difference, for people and planet alike.

Doors will open at 6:15pm with the ticket price including a plant-based meal.



The poster is for a documentary screening event. At the top, it says 'SUSTAINABITES PRESENTS' in a semi-circle around a smiling Earth icon. The title 'Food For Thought' is in a large, orange, cursive font. Below the title, it says 'DOCUMENTARY MOVIE SCREENING - PLANET-FRIENDLY FOOD - EXPERT PANEL Q&A'. The 'STARRING' section lists 'DAN RICHARDSON' and 'SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER DR. SHIREEN KASSAM'. The location is 'ALTON MALTINGS, GU34 1DT' with 'FREE PARKING!'. The doors open at '6:15PM'. The date and ticket price are '31 JANUARY 2026 | TICKETS £12'. A QR code is in the top right corner. The bottom has a ticket link: 'Tickets: bit.ly/AltonFilm'.

SUSTAINABITES PRESENTS

'Food For Thought'

DOCUMENTARY MOVIE SCREENING -
PLANET-FRIENDLY FOOD - EXPERT PANEL Q&A

STARRING

DAN RICHARDSON

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER

DR. SHIREEN KASSAM

ALTON MALTINGS, GU34 1DT
FREE PARKING!

DOORS OPEN
6:15PM

31 JANUARY 2026 | TICKETS £12

 **Tickets:** bit.ly/AltonFilm

Support House Martins with Artificial Nest Cups

Working with [South East Water](#) and [Hampshire Swifts](#), Hampshire Ornithological Society (HOS) is trialling a scheme to provide free nest cups for Hampshire properties in the South East Water supply area with the aim to boost the population of House Martins, which sadly are in serious decline and are now on the Red List of Britain's most endangered birds. HOS aim to fit 100 double nest cups before House Martins return to breed in 2026.

If you would like to help please visit <https://hampshirehousemartins.org.uk/> to learn more about the eligibility criteria for installation of a free nest cup.

Volunteer with ACAN

Here at 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
