



An exciting start to the year for the ACAN community

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## Diary Dates

**Thursday 6th February at 10am:** [Litter Pick](#)

Litter pick, starting in Anstey Park car park by the British Legion clubhouse (GU34 2NB) at 10am. Please bring your own protective gloves. Litter pickers and bags will be provided as usual.

**Saturday 8th February at 10am-12 midday:** [ALFI Seedy Saturday](#)

Held at Alton Methodist Church Hall GU34 1LG. Bring your spare seeds to swap, or help yourself for a small donation.

**Saturday 8th February at 2pm:** [Ecology Walk](#), Ackender Woods. Meeting: Pertuis Ave entrance.

**Sunday 9th February at 2pm:** [Wildlife Trail](#), Ackender Woods, Meeting: Jubilee Fields, Cricket Pavillion

**Saturday 15th February at 2pm:** [Ecology Walk](#), Anstey Park. Meeting: outside Alton Rugby Club

**Sunday 16th February at 2pm:** [Wildlife Trail](#), Anstey Park. Meeting: outside Alton Rugby Club.

**Wednesday 19 February at 6:30pm:** join **The Friends of Treloar's** for an insightful talk by award winning gardener on [Best Use of Space for Growing Vegetables](#)

**Wednesday 19th February at 7:30pm:** [SustainaBites Future Planning Meeting](#)

**Thursday 20th February at 11am-1pm:** [SustainaBites at Alton Library](#) as part of the library's Green and Thrifty fortnight.

**Saturday 22nd February at 10:30am-12:30pm:** [Alton Repair Cafe](#)

Bring along items for repair by the handy volunteers: toys, electrical equipment, furniture, radios, bicycles, ornaments, kettles, clothes & textiles and much more. Good for your pocket and our precious planet.

Alton Community Centre, Amery St, Alton GU34 1HN

**Saturday 22nd February at 2pm:** [Mythology Walk](#), Ackender Woods. Meeting: Pertuis Ave entrance.

**Sunday 23rd February at 2pm:** [Ecology Walk](#), Ackender Woods. Meeting: Pertuis Ave entrance.

Saturdays in March (1st / 8th / 15th / 22nd): [Cycle Alton Confidence -Building Bike Rides](#)

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### ALFI Seed Swap

ALFI will be holding their annual Seedy Saturday - an opportunity for gardeners to swap unwanted seeds. The event takes place on Saturday, 8th February, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM at Alton Methodist Church Hall. Please bring along seeds to swap, or you are welcome to take some for a small donation.



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### New Dates Added For Popular Guided Ecology Walks

ACAN Eco-Streets have added new guided ecology walks and wildlife trails for February. These walks are led by Scott Gudrich, ACAN Eco-Streets Project Manager.

**Saturday 8th Feb at 2pm: Ecology Walk**, Ackender Woods. Meeting: Pertuis Ave entrance, 2pm

**Sunday 9th Feb at 2pm: Wildlife Trail**, Ackender Woods. Meeting: Jubilee Fields, Cricket Pavillion

**Saturday 15th Feb at 2pm: Ecology Walk**, Anstey Park. Meeting: outside Alton Rugby Club

**Sunday 16th Feb at 2pm: Wildlife Trail**, Anstey Park. Meeting: outside Alton Rugby Club

**Saturday 22nd Feb at 2pm: Mythology Walk**, Ackender Woods. Meeting: Pertuis Ave entrance

**Sunday 23rd Feb at 2pm: Ecology Walk**, Ackender Woods. Meeting: Pertuis Ave entrance



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### **SustainaBites at Alton Library**

Do come along to Alton Library on Thursday 20th Feb from 11am - 1pm to try some of SustainaBites delicious plant-based nibbles as part of the library's Green and Thrifty fortnight.

Take the opportunity to taste some of the scrumptious alternatives to meat and dairy that are available, which can be better for your wallet and can also help reduce our environmental impact.



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## 'New Year, New You?' a Great Success

On 11th January, ALFI (Alton Local Food Initiative), AVLAN (Alton and Villages Local Action for Nature) and SustainaBites (who promote plant-based food) held a joint event at Alton Community Centre to publicise the aims and purpose of the three groups.

Over 75 people attended, walking round the displays with volunteers ready to tell visitors about the local activities conducted by their group, including sampling SustainaBites snacks. A short presentation was given about each group and the environmental links between them along with the benefits of getting involved.

Young ACAN displayed some of the amazing designs from the Pollinators Poster Competition submitted by students at St Lawrence primary school and Alton College. The winners of the competition were presented with their prizes. A raffle was also held to help cover the expenses of the event.

There was much excitement in the room providing an opportunity to engage with new volunteers and promote the work of these groups in our community. A good start to 2025.

Finally, a big thank you to all the volunteers from ALFI, AVLAN and SustainaBites for making this event a great success.



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## Build Your Bike Riding Confidence

Cycle Alton in conjunction with Cycling UK North Hampshire are offering some confidence-building bicycle rides during March, aimed at potential cyclists who are



hesitant about cycling in local traffic.

Taking place on four Saturday mornings, the rides will start either in Chawton or Holybourne, and be led and accompanied by experienced local cyclists. The routes will take riders through the town centre and back, covering about five miles in total.

Start time is 9.30am to avoid the worst of the traffic, and groups will be kept to a maximum of six riders.

There will be an optional refreshment stop at the end!

For more details and to book, please email [cyclealton@gmail.com](mailto:cyclealton@gmail.com).

***Hesitant about cycling in traffic?***

***Build your confidence  
on our led bike rides!***

Dates:

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March  
Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March  
Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> March  
Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March



- Confidence-building cycling in local traffic through Alton town centre
- 5-mile rides with experienced cyclists
- Start in either Chawton or Holybourne
- Rides start at 9:30am & last about 2 hours with plenty of stops
- Optional refreshment stop at the end!



*Email for details  
& to book:*

*[cyclealton@gmail.com](mailto:cyclealton@gmail.com)*

## Best Use of Space for Growing Vegetables

Learn how to make the most of your space for growing vegetables!

On Wednesday 19 February, join **The Friends of Treloar's** for an insightful talk by award-winning gardener Iris Lynch F.L.S MCIHORT.

What's included?

- Expert advice from Iris, a RHS mentor and gardening guru
- Drinks and nibbles
- A raffle with a fantastic prize
- Interactive Q&A session (submit your questions when booking!)

All proceeds support Treloar's, so please book your ticket today to grow your gardening skills while making a difference.

<https://www.treloar.org.uk/events/best-use-space-growing-vegetables>

in aid of  
**Treloar's**

## Best use of space for growing vegetables

A talk by **Iris Lynch F.L.S MCIHORT**

**£15**

Includes drinks  
and nibbles

Award  
winning  
gardener

Fellow of the  
Linnean  
Society

Assessor for  
the RHS Green  
Plan It  
Challenge

RHS  
Mentor



### Let your vegetables grow up!

**Wednesday 19 February 2025, 6:30pm**  
**Froyle Village Hall, GU34 4LG**

Learn expert tips  
Participate in a Q&A session  
Win a fantastic prize in the raffle!

**Event organised by The Friends of Treloar's, in aid of Treloar's.**

For more information, please visit [www.treloar.org.uk/events](http://www.treloar.org.uk/events)  
E: [janemacnabb@hotmail.com](mailto:janemacnabb@hotmail.com)  
Charity Number 1092857

**FR** Registered with  
**FUNDRAISING  
REGULATOR**

## **'Eating for Tomorrow' Event Sells Out**

SustainaBites wish to say a huge thank you to all those who attended their “Eating for Tomorrow” event which was held on 25th January and all tickets were sold out for the night.

There was a very positive energy in the room, everyone was engaged and seemed ready to look at their dietary choices and their environmental and health impact. The food, provided by Jo's Kitchen of Petersfield, was delicious and much praised, and Dr Shireen Kassam's responses to our questions was both wise and insightful. Our grateful thanks go to both of them for making the event truly memorable.

If you missed it and would like to watch the documentary – [the full version is on YouTube](#) (1 hour 21 minutes) and there is a [shorter summary version](#) (36 minutes) also available to watch free of charge on YouTube.

To help discuss future events please join the SustainaBites team at 7:30pm on Wednesday 19th February - please email [sustainabitesuk@gmail.com](mailto:sustainabitesuk@gmail.com) if you would like to join.

Further information can be found at the SustainaBites [Facebook page](#) and [webpage](#).





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## SustainaBites Future Planning Meeting

SustainaBites has come to the end of its second phase of activities and is now ready to find new ways to bring our message to the people of the Alton area.

If you are interested in getting involved and / or have ideas for future action, please do let us know and come along on. The meeting is scheduled for **Wed 19th Feb at 7:30pm**.

Please email [sustainabitesuk@gmail.com](mailto:sustainabitesuk@gmail.com) for further details.



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## A Fruit Tree in Every Garden

This initiative, in collaboration with PeCAN, has proved very popular again this year. Orders are no longer being taken for Alton residents as we exceeded our quota with 430 fruit trees sold to 170 people.

Trees are a beneficial addition to most gardens, but in residential areas they are very important, helping with climate regulation, air filtration and providing valuable habitats for wildlife. They provide nesting places and materials, food sources and hiding places for a great variety of creatures. With almost half of Britain's ancient woodland having been destroyed in the last 50 years, the need for these habitats is greater than ever, and you can help by planting a tree in your garden!

If you have ordered your fruit tree for the Alton collection, please remember to book your pick-up slot for collection in Alton on 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

<https://petersfieldcan.org/projects/nature-recovery/trees/trees-holding>





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## **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](mailto:altonclimatenetwork@gmail.com) and let us know what you would like to do

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## **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](#)

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