



Welcome to July's Newsletter

Read on to find out about all the exciting things happening during July and beyond!

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Diary Dates

Thursday 2nd July 10 am: ACAN litter pick

Make an immediate and obvious difference to the appearance of our town by joining an ACAN litter Pick! Please bring your own protective gloves but litter pickers and bags will be provided. For more details, including where to meet, click here: [Litter pick details](#)

Saturday 4th July: 10-11 am: AVLAN's invertebrate sampling

Fancy kick-sampling for invertebrates, including cased caddis, freshwater shrimp and mayfly larvae? Or, if you'd rather keep your feet dry, then just come along and see what has been caught! Families welcome. Fun, interesting and educational! Meet in Flood Meadows, near the wooden bridge (with the owl and otter). See you there!

Monday 6th July at 7pm: ALFI Annual General Meeting and Social

Everyone is warmly invited to ALFI's annual general meeting in the back room of The Railway Arms on Anstey Road, Alton. There will be a short business meeting, followed by drinks, snacks and an opportunity to meet the committee and other volunteers. If you're keen to be involved in, or are just interested in the work that ALFI does, please do come along!

Saturday 11th July: 9:30-11:30 am: ECO-CHURCH toy bonanza

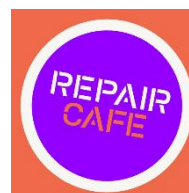
Come along to the Summer Toy Bonanza at St Lawrence Church. Good-as-new toys, books, puzzles and games are all free to take away! There will also be activities for children as well as refreshments. Also, if you have any children's books, toys, games or puzzles you would like to donate then please leave these in the porch of St Lawrence Church before the 11th!

Saturday 11th July 2–4 pm: Alton 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. All loans are free of charge. Held at St Lawrence Parish Centre. Powered by the community for the community.

Saturday 18th July 10:30 am–12:30 pm: Alton Repair Café

Recycle and repair, don't replace! Bring along your cherished items and get them repaired. Free but donations are welcome. Held at Alton Assembly Rooms on the third Saturday of each month.



Sunday 19th July 7 pm onwards: Screening of 'Wilding'

Don't miss the chance to watch this incredible film, based on the experiences of Isabella Tree and her husband Charlie Burrell as they changed an unproductive farm into an environmental success story. Now home to Tamworth pigs, Exmoor ponies, turtle doves, nightingales and the UK's largest population of purple emperor butterflies, the story of the rewilding of the Knepp Estate is truly inspiring. Tickets £6. Click here for more details:

[Wilding](#)

Saturday 1st August 9:30–11:30 am: Cycle Alton: Confidence-Building Bike Ride

Join the lovely people of Cycle Alton for a gentle cycle ride through the town and beyond. There will be plenty of pauses along the way and an optional refreshment stop at the end! Meet on Jubilee Playing Fields. For more details, click here: [Cycle Alton Bike Ride](#)

Also...

Do you drive an electric car or are you intending to buy one in the next five years? If so, would you like your say on where charging points should be placed? If the answer to both is 'yes', then please click this link to take part in a survey: [Charging Point Survey](#)

People's Emergency Briefing: ACAN's biggest event yet!

The screening of the [People's Emergency Briefing](#) film on climate and nature was ACAN's biggest ever event. We issued over two hundred tickets, which left Alton College's Martin Read Hall very full indeed! About one hundred people stayed on for an hour of very animated discussion in groups, out on the college green. There was a great buzz as they discussed nature, food, energy, consumerism and transport!

The audience were invited to come up with big ideas to address the scale of the challenge we face and they did just that! MP Damian Hinds attended the meeting and was grateful for the opportunity to listen in on some of the discussion groups. He appreciated the, "Good practical points," put forward.

A follow up meeting was held last Thursday to decide which of those big ideas we would take further. Happily, both Alton's Town Mayor Barbara Tansey and our newly elected Hampshire County Councillor Emily Young were able to attend and went through the ideas list with us, highlighting those that we could pursue relatively easily, those already in existence or in progress, and those not currently possible. Their input was invaluable and very gratefully received.

All that remains is to choose our top projects and get started. To find out more, follow our [Facebook page](#).

Our grateful thanks go to Alton College for allowing us the use of their hall free of charge.



SustainaBites: summer of spreading the word

Sustainabites have been as busy as ever! In May, we took our stall to the Farnham Sustainability & Wellbeing Festival in where Jenniann and Stu demonstrated easy plant-based sandwich fillings that were so well received, we had no leftovers to take home! See the recipes for [Coronation chickpeas](#) and [Eggless Mayonnaise](#) to discover what makes these fillings so irresistible!

Then there was the delightful Alton Lions D-Day Party in the Park, where we joined Cycle Alton, Energy Alton and Phinna Brealey with her wartime salvage stall. The rain failed to dampen our spirits as we talked about the improvement in the nation's health in the war due to rationing, particularly of meat, dairy and sugar. In fact, the child mortality rate went down, despite the bombing, because poorer children enjoyed the same diet as everyone else!

Alresford New Leaf's Land, Air & Water talks night allowed us to introduce their audience to a whole range of goodies. One attendee asked for more information about the health benefits of eating more plant-based foods – do take a look at the following website if you would also like to know more <https://plantbasedhealthprofessionals.com/articles>

SustainaBites offers nibbles, speakers, recipes and advice about increasing the plant-based content in your diet. Contact sustainabitesuk@gmail.com for more information.



Alton in Bloom: Gold Star Awards

Alton In Bloom is a long-standing initiative that encourages residents to enhance their surroundings while helping wildlife as well as building a stronger, greener community. New categories for 2026 include Best New Build Garden and Children's Garden, as well as expanded recognition through the Climate Change Gold Star Award.

The movement aims to encourage wildlife-friendly and sustainable gardening practices, including planting for pollinators, creating ponds, avoiding chemical pesticides and letting some of the lawn grow a little wilder. Chair of the Climate Change Committee, Cllr Don Hammond, described the initiative as, *"A fantastic opportunity for everyone in our community to take small but meaningful steps towards tackling climate change."*

Entries are submitted primarily through photographs, with a deadline of 31st July. In-person judging for selected categories will be taking place on 5th August. Residents of all ages and abilities are encouraged to take part.

Find out more and enter online: [Alton in bloom](#)

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.