



Welcome to September's Newsletter

After a very hot, dry summer, some much-welcome rain has arrived at last! I'm sure that you (and your gardens) really appreciated the change in the weather! Many people have really struggled in this summer's heat but it has at least brought climate change to the forefront of discussion.

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Facebook: [@AltonClimate](https://www.facebook.com/AltonClimate) Twitter: [@AltonClimate](https://twitter.com/AltonClimate) Instagram: [alton.can](https://www.instagram.com/alton.can)

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Diary Dates

From Wednesday 2nd September to Monday 14th September: Native Planting

Get involved in planting a range of native plants at West Lea, near Alresford. This is the second round of planting: in the first, volunteers found homes for approximately 7,500 water plants! Click [here](#) for a sense of what is involved. Interested? Then email ian.diver7@gmail.com

Thursday 3rd September, starting at 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. Meet by the garage 50 yards up the hill from 99 Wooteys Way, GU34 2JP. For more details, click here: [litter pick](#)

Saturday 5th September, 10-11:30 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 – wellies essential if you plan to get in the river. For more details, click here: [kick sampling](#)

Tuesday 8th September 7 – 9 pm: 'Green Clean Roadshow' at Alton Assembly Rooms

Learn how cleaning products damage life in our chalk streams and the alternatives that are available. There will be demonstrations as well as suggestions for river-friendly alternatives. Click [here](#) for more details including how to book free places.

Saturday 12th September, 6 pm: Music for a Late Summer Evening

Come along to an evening of wonderful music held at St Andrew's Church, Medstead. Proceeds from ticket sales will be split between the church and ACAN's sustainable farming initiative in Malawi. See below for further details.

Saturday 12th September, 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 19th September, 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.



Saturday 19th September, 12 pm start: 'After the Drought' Nature Walk

Join Scott Gudrich for an inspirational nature-themed walk through local habitats. Starts at the entrance to Ackender Woods, Pertuis Avenue entrance. All welcome and free of charge. See below for further details.

Wednesday 23rd September, 10 am – 3 pm: Volunteer's Festival

Find out more about volunteer opportunities near you! Alternatively, if you're already a volunteer drop in to say hello! ACAN is looking forward to having a stand at this celebratory discovery event taking place in Alton Assembly Rooms. It is part of a district-wide festival supported by East Hampshire District Council, and funded by the UK Government. For more details, click [here](#)

Sunday 27th September, 7:30 pm start: 'Nighttime Nature' Walk

Join Scott Gudrich for the second of his inspirational nature-themed walks this Autumn.

Starts at the entrance to Ackender Woods, Pertuis Avenue entrance. All welcome and free of charge. See below for further details.

Sunday 4th October, 2-4 pm: Cycle Alton – Bicycle Maintenance Workshops

The first of Cycle Alton's bike maintenance course for this Autumn. See below for more details!

Saturday 10th October, starting at 10 am: Litter Pick

The Alton Society's and Guild of Optimists' Autumn Litter Pick, starting at the Cairn on Crown Hill, Alton High Street next to the Assembly Rooms.

Saturday 10th October, 12 – 3 pm: ACAN open event

This ACAN open event is designed to spread the news about ACAN and what we do. If you know anyone with a passion for environmental issues and a willingness to get involved, encourage them to come along to this event and meet representatives from some of the local groups. Takes place at 16 Market Square, Alton.

National Emergency Briefing – update

Many of you will have now seen the 'People's Emergency Briefing' about the ever-increasing threat to our climate and our natural world. If you have missed it, more screenings are planned, including one in Medstead (watch this space). The film deals with the consequences of climate change and many of the actions that can be taken to alleviate it. The makers of the film want it to be screened on national television so that millions of people will see it and its vital message. After a summer of scorching heatwaves and wildfires across the UK, this screening is more important than ever.

The NEB (National Emergency Briefing) team have also proposed an urgent agenda for the COBR meeting convened during the heatwaves. They are talking to the devolved governments of the UK. Many organisations have hosted – or are going to host – screenings of the film, including Transport for London, English Heritage and the Environment Agency.

The pressure is growing.

If you want to dig deeper into any of the issues explored in the film, Caroline Lucas' excellent ['When Nature Becomes a Security Threat'](#) is definitely worth a listen.

Although government-led action is needed, there are still many community-based initiatives that can make a difference. ACAN is just one of the many local groups around the UK who are trying to make a difference. By getting involved, you can make a difference too.

Community Farm Project

We are looking for land!

A lot has happened in the last month. Our wonderful community farm team have pooled our passion and enthusiasm and got a better idea of what sort of farm we want to create:

A community led kitchen garden in a thriving, nature-friendly space, producing nutritious, locally grown fruit and vegetables for us all to share.

We are now looking for about 3 – 5 acres of land in which to:

- Grow fruit, vegetables and herbs in an environmentally and nature friendly way
- Grow some experimental drought resistant crops in anticipation of future heatwaves
- Set up a classroom and invite school groups and adults to learn about what we do and try growing food in their own gardens
- Hold harvest feasts and open days to share our produce.
- Provide volunteering opportunities so that everyone can bring their skills and energy and enjoy the physical and mental health benefits of working on the land with our friendly team.
- Invite local companies to get involved by holding volunteer sessions to help build the infrastructure we will need.

The land needs to be:

- Flat and open preferably with an existing water supply
- Accessible by foot, cycle, car (and ideally bus as well)
- If possible, within the town boundaries so that we become an integral part of the Alton community.

If you have some suitable land or know someone else who has, please do get in touch by email altonclimatenetwork@gmail.com

Take a look at the [Stream Walk Community Garden](#) in Whitstable to get a better idea of what we hope to achieve.



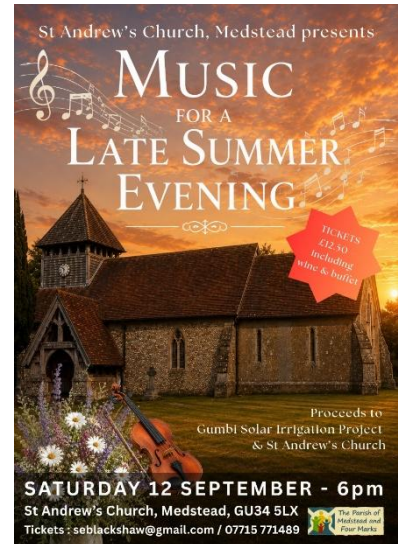
Music for a Late Summer Evening

ACAN Committee member Patrick Busby organises this wonderful concert every year at St Andrew's Church, Medstead. An extraordinarily accomplished pianist, he plays solos and duets and accompanies singers including his wife Wendy, a fine soprano. ACAN's Jenny Griffiths will be playing Secondo with Patrick in a Chopin duet.

This year, proceeds from the concert will be shared between St Andrew's Church and ACAN's sustainable farming and irrigation initiative in Malawi.

This 6-minute video shares the story... [Saving Lives in Malawi – Video June 2026](#)

Tickets for the concert are just £12.50 including wine and buffet after the concert, from seblackshaw@gmail.com or 07715 771489



Themed nature walks

Scott Gudrich is restarting his programme of free themed nature walks for ACAN this Autumn. There are four planned events which will explore the local environment.

All welcome! See the flyer for further details.

**FREE GUIDED NATURE WALKS**

	Saturday, Sept 19 After the Drought Meet at 12pm Ackender Woods (Pertuis Ave)
	Sunday, Sept 27 Nighttime Nature Meet at 7:30 Ackender Woods (Pertuis Ave)
	Sunday, Oct 4 Poetry Walk Meet at 2pm Ackender Woods (Pertuis Ave)
	Sunday, Oct 18 Ecology Walk Meet at 11am Ackender Woods (Pertuis Ave) (part of the Alton Walking Festival)

All walks are free to attend, no previous sign-up necessary. Led by Scott Gudrich, MSc. Walks are slow paced but not fully accessible (uneven, narrow paths). Walks will be rescheduled in case of strong winds or rains, please check our social media for updates. @ecostreetsalton (Facebook, Instagram)

Cycle Alton - Bicycle Maintenance Workshops

Cycle Alton are holding another course of bicycle maintenance classes in Alton Community Centre in October. These free workshops will be led by Hilary Hill of Cycle Alton. While earlier classes were for women only, these classes will be open to all.

Each week a different topic will be covered – puncture repairs, how to adjust your brakes and gears, and general bicycle maintenance. Come along and find out how to look after your beloved bicycle properly!

Please see <https://www.cyclealton.co.uk/post/new-bicycle-maintenance-workshops> for more information. Numbers are strictly limited, so book soon.

Email: cyclealton@gmail.com



The Greening of Alton's Car Parks – Update

EHDC Councillor Emily Young assures us that the District Council has car park improvements in its sights already, which is good to hear. She is keeping us updated on progress on the two ideas so far proposed:

- Extending the green area in the Bank Car Park – an idea originally proposed some years ago by John Isham of the Alton Society which Tony Cohen has been able to redraft and send to Councillor Young. This is due to be discussed with the relevant council officers at a meeting on 3rd September.
- Plans to replace the covered walkway in the car park at the back of Iceland are also being considered.

It is encouraging to see that the leader of EHDC, Councillor Millard, has recently used his Leader's fund to plant trees in a car park in Petersfield.

Climate and Nature Network – vacancies

The Climate and Nature Network is a new charity to be the voice for the climate and nature in the Hampshire and Solent area.

Coordinator vacancy

The success of the Network (CANN for short) depends on the Coordinator. The part-time role involves a wide range of responsibilities, from developing a strong supporter base, with communications and events, to supporting the trustees with policies and systems to run the organisation well. See [the job description](#).

DEADLINE for applications is **midnight Sunday 13 September 2026**. We hope to interview on 16th or 17th September.

If you are interested, please send jobs@cann.network an email with your name in the subject line including:

A CV of no more than 2 sides of A4 *and* a statement setting out

- How you meet [the person specification](#)
- Your availability (hours a week, any constraints on days)
- Whether you prefer to work freelance or as an employee

Please also download, complete and digitally return this [equality monitoring form](#).

Freelance IT support

We're inviting quotations for 100 hours freelance work to set up CANN systems for people to subscribe to membership and various supporter mailings, using MailChimp with forms embedded in the website.

If you are interested, please send jobs@cann.network an email *by midnight 6 September* with your name in the subject line including:

1. A CV of no more than 2 sides of A4
2. A statement setting out what you can do, by when, and your hourly rate?

Please also download, complete and digitally return this [equality monitoring form](#).

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.