



## Welcome to January's Newsletter

Happy New Year! We at ACAN hope that you had a wonderful festive period with friends and family. We also hope that 2026 will bring lots of good news and plenty of positive action.

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## Diary Dates

### Thursday 8th January 10 – 11:30 am: Alton Litter Pick

Starts in Anstey Park car park by the British Legion clubhouse. Please bring your own gloves, although litter pickers and bags will be provided. Help make an immediate and obvious difference to the appearance of our town!

### Saturday 10th January 2 – 4 pm: 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**.



**Thursday 15th January 6:30 – 9 pm: Film screening - ‘System Update – Rebooting Our Future’**

In collaboration with Perins School, New Leaf Alresford are hosting a screening of the film ‘System Update – Rebooting Our Future’ on Thursday 15th January. Join them to watch a bold new feature length documentary about climate change, exploring how we can transform our politics, economics and society to meet the climate crisis. Followed by a panel discussion with the director of the film, the MP for Winchester and a Professor of Sustainable Business! And all this for only £3!

Tickets available here: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/newleafalresford/1945543>

**Saturday 17th January 10:30 am – 12:30 pm: Alton Repair Café at Alton Assembly Rooms**

Recycle and repair, don’t replace!

Bring along your cherished items and get them repaired. Free but donations are welcome.

**Sunday 25th January 10 am start: Bolle Road wildflower verge working party**

Join Scott Gudrich and Jenny Griffiths for a couple of very rewarding hours helping to prepare the Bolle Road verge for the year ahead. Please bring gardening gloves, a trowel or hand fork, kneeler pad, and a rake or large garden fork if you have one.

Meet at the verge next to the Butts Primary School, *what3words*: buzzards.tennis.stadium

**Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> January, doors open at 6:15 pm: Film Screening – ‘Food for Thought’**

An opportunity to watch the excellent and thought-provoking documentary ‘Food for Thought’ followed by a question-and-answer session with those involved, including the film’s director. A delicious meal is included in the price. For more details, see feature below.

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## Food for Thought

Ever thought about the effect of your food choices?

One of the best ways to improve our health and lessen our environmental impact is by eating more beans and less beef. Chefs Jamie Oliver, Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall and Tom Kerridge have launched a new national campaign called ‘[Bang in some beans](#)’ to encourage people to eat more sustainably. Not only are beans good for us, they are also cheaper than meat and produce far fewer greenhouse harmful emissions than livestock farming, including climate-warming methane.

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Win, win, win!

By making small changes to our diets, we can save money, help combat climate change and improve our health and well-being.

To find out more don't miss our screening of the acclaimed documentary 'Food for Thought', which blends humour, heart and hope for a brighter future. Tickets include a delicious meal and the opportunity to meet the film's director, Dan Richardson, in a post-screening Q&A session.

For more details and a link to tickets, click [here](#)

Visit Sustainabites [webpage](#) or [Facebook page](#) for helpful tips, tasty recipes, and details of upcoming events.



## ACAN Consultancy Opportunity - Business Engagement Feasibility Study

Are you someone with business experience who also has a passion for environmental issues? Maybe you know someone who fits this description?

ACAN would like to support the local business community to take positive action for climate and nature. To inform our efforts on this, we are seeking a consultant to undertake a feasibility study, with funding from Alton Town Council. This is a paid position with a small allocated budget. The study is expected to commence with an inception meeting in January or early February 2026 and be completed no later than 30th April 2026.

The objectives of this feasibility study are:

- *To identify the extent to which Alton's small business community are already taking positive action for climate and nature, and to assess the appetite for working with ACAN or other groups to take further action.*

- *To assess the support needs and preferred engagement formats of small businesses in further positive action, building on any existing models for business action within Alton or further afield.*
- *To provide actionable recommendations for steps that ACAN and its partners could take to help businesses take further positive action for climate and nature.*

**Deadline for applications:** Friday 9th January 2026

Please email applications to: [altonclimatenetwork@gmail.com](mailto:altonclimatenetwork@gmail.com)

Interviews will be held on either Monday 12th or Friday 16th January.

For more details, click [here](#).

## Litter Pick Update

Lynn Bonsey, who has led Alton's valiant group litter-pickers for several years, is stepping down from this role. Thank you, Lynn, for your commitment, hard work and determination to keep picking in all weathers! However, the group will continue under Phinna Brealey, who will be organising litter-picking meetings on the first Thursday of each month. If you can give up a couple of hours to help out, then please do take part. For details, see diary dates above.

## Good News

And finally, it's very easy to become overwhelmed by the alarming news stories that we hear concerning the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. We are living in difficult times and the world can appear very bleak and divided.

However, there are plenty of positive and heartwarming actions that *are* taking place all over the world and 2025 gave us lots to be positive about.

So, as we welcome in the new year, let's take a look at some of the good news stories from the last twelve months.

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Worldwide, more electricity in 2025 was produced by **renewables** than burning coal (the first year this has happened). In fact, the UK's last remaining coal-fired power station closed this year.

The **High Seas Treaty** was ratified. It aims to protect 30% of the high seas, and the animals that live there. The world's largest **Marine Protected Area** was also established this year, protecting almost half a million square miles of ocean.

Conservation efforts around the world have helped many animals, with some species of **turtle** having had a pretty good year. Green turtles are now rated "least concern" rather than "endangered". Leatherback turtles have also had a record-breaking nesting season in Florida.

Golden eagles were spotted in northern England for the first time in over a decade.

Meanwhile, thousands of **Partula snails** have been returned to their native islands after an absence of thirty years.

More locally, ACAN continues to adopt verges and small areas of unused ground to develop as habitats for native wildlife.

And there are plenty more stories out there if you take a few minutes to look for them!

## 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.

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