



Welcome to March's Newsletter

Spring is here or perhaps just around the corner. Either way, a change is in the air and our gardens, hedgerows and wild spaces are showing signs of life after a long, cold winter.

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Diary Dates

Saturday 7th March 2 – 3:30pm: Theatre workshop POSTPONED.

Please check the ACAN website and social media in coming weeks for a new date.

Saturday 7th March 10am – 12pm: Alton's Spring Clean

Meet outside the Assembly Rooms. Equipment will be provided – just bring your enthusiasm!
Organised by the Alton Society and the Guild of Optimists.

Please note: this replaces the monthly ACAN litter pick. The next one will be on 2nd April.

Saturday 14th March 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**.

Tuesday 17th March at 7pm: Northern Wey Community Trust meeting

This is the first meeting for this group – **please do attend!** The focus is on raising the profile of the Northern River Wey and will give a chance to explore ways of improving biodiversity and river management as well as celebrating the Wey's heritage. All welcome. Held at **Alton Community Centre**.

Saturday 21st March 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**

Saturday 21st March 2 – 3:30 pm: Songwriting workshop

Join Scott Gudrich, environmental educator and artist, for an exciting, creative workshop. No experience necessary! Held at the Freedom Through Expression Gallery. Ages 16+. With thanks to EHDC and the SDNP for their vital funding. Interested? Sign up [here](#)

Songwriting Workshop
March 21st, 2-3:30 pm
Help make magic happen and let seeds of ideas take shape and grow into a song for the group to sing!

Thursday 28th March 11:30am – 5pm:

South East Climate Alliance's annual conference in Guildford

Interested in climate issues and biodiversity? Come along and join in this annual get-together, h Holy Trinity Church, Guildford. Tickets £5, but students attend for free. To book, click [here](#)

Young ACAN Schools Eco Conference

The fourth annual Young ACAN Schools' Eco Conference on Friday 30th January at Alton College brought together an incredible 100 children and young people from 14 local schools, including Eggar's and Bushy Leaze Nursery. The theme this year was "Eating for our Planet" as food is the biggest single contributor to climate change. Pupils were empowered with lots of information and ideas to make the right food choices for their health and the planet.

Young ACAN lead and event organiser, Emma Jones, said. "The Young ACAN Schools' Partnership brings together all our local schools, including Bushy Leaze Nursery and Alton College. Each academic year, we launch a project and then meet every half-term at Alton College to deliver that project in our schools. The impact of working together is huge with a wonderful ripple effect of children sharing their knowledge of environmental issues with their friends and families." Emma's speech was followed by an interactive food quiz led by environmental scientist and educator, Scott Gudrich, who also leads Young ACAN.

No less than ten different workshops centred around the theme 'Eating for our Planet' were delivered by local organisations, teachers and businesses, including Fill Up, Street Croft Farm, the Ministry of Eco Education and Milk Club, who is sponsoring Young ACAN this year. Mel Ford from Sustainabites, who led a fun and interactive workshop based on a board game, said, "We were thrilled to be part of such a special event. It really filled us with hope and inspiration! And the kids were SO impressive!"



To read the full report, click [here](#)

SustainaBites Update

Over 70 people attended SustainaBites second film screening on 31st January and an excellent time was had by all. Our post screening survey was overwhelmingly positive with many people asking when we would do it again.

Laura said she, “Would LOVE to see this more frequently, it's a great evening, and would be useful to keep up more momentum. It doesn't need to be a film every time, it could be a monthly meet up with food, and discussion topics, or workshopping, brainstorming, or whatever.”

For those interested in taking things further, rest assured the SustainaBites team is considering all the above suggestions and will keep you posted via our Facebook page and this newsletter.

And don't worry if you missed it!
The [recipes are now up on our web page](#) and we look forward to seeing you at our next event.

If you want to get involved or know more about what we are doing email us at: sustainabitesuk@gmail.com



Feasibility Project - Update

Engaging Alton's Small Businesses in Climate & Nature Action

Delivered by MDT Online for ACAN | February - April 2026

ACAN has commissioned MDT Online to undertake a feasibility project exploring how Alton's small and medium-sized businesses can engage more actively in climate and nature action.

MDT Online specialises in structured stakeholder engagement, **qualitative research**, and evidence-based reporting. Over a 12-week period, MDT Online will engage 20–

30 local businesses across key sectors, including retail, hospitality, manufacturing, professional services, and tourism.

For more details, click [here](#)



South East Climate Alliance: Annual Conference

Bringing to your attention the **annual conference of the South East Climate Alliance (SECA), which will be held on Saturday 28th March 2026, 11:30-17:00 in Guildford**. There is a booking fee of £5. The theme for this event is "Facing the Future!" and it looks set to be another very interesting day.

You can book your spot [here](#)!

The plan for the day is:

- **From 11.30am: Check in** at Holy Trinity Church, network, eat lunch, visit stalls with displays by member groups
 - **1pm: Plenary session** with inspiring speakers introducing the day's twin themes of:
 - Local Government Reorganisation, and
 - Climate Adaptation and Resilience
 - **2pm: Parallel workshops** exploring the topics more deeply.
 - **Local Government Reorganisation:** Current thinking is that the local government workshop will hold an initial session on devolution and the radical restructuring of our councils, and then split into
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groups for Surrey, Hampshire and Sussex to look at the local pictures. How do we ensure that climate and nature remain centre stage during this complex and confusing process?

- **Climate Adaptation and Resilience:** The adaptation and resilience speakers will discuss how we can help our communities to prepare for and adapt to the dramatic climate changes that we know are coming our way.
- **3.30pm: Open Space.** This is an opportunity for member groups to engage participants in a range of other topics they'd like to raise awareness of
- **4.30pm: Report back** and discuss our next steps
- **5.15pm: Close of day**

If you'd like to have a stall or introduce a topic close to your heart in the Open Space, please contact Pat Smith at pat2africa@yahoo.co.uk.



**SOUTH EAST
CLIMATE
ALLIANCE**



**Interested in
Resilience and
Adaptation?**

**Wondering what
Devolution/LGR
is all about?**

Come & Join Us For Our Annual Networking
& Knowledge Sharing Event

**28th March 2026
11.30 - 17.00**

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH High Street, Guildford GU1 3TY

Tickets £5 - Students Free
<https://bit.ly/SECA2026>



**SURREY
CLIMATE
COMMISSION**



Energy Alton: New Trustees Needed

Could you help guide Energy Alton's Future?

We're looking for two new trustees to join our board.

If you care about low cost, highly energy efficient homes and want to use your skills to make a meaningful difference, this could be for you... no previous trustee experience needed!

You could:

- shape strategy
- support our team
- strengthen our impact
- learn new skills

Find out more and apply [here](#)

Greening Alton

It's time to restart AVLAN's *Greening Alton* project. Gardens rich in plant life support all sorts of insects and other invertebrates, as well as birds and small mammals. If you would like to add your garden to the map, then get in touch below.

Some questions for newsletter readers...

Should we hold another '*Greening Alton Open Gardens*' this summer?

Would you open *your* garden to visitors?

Would you visit other gardens?

Let us know your thoughts at:

altonclimatenetwork@gmail.com

GREENING ALTON

MAPPING AND LINKING LOCAL GREEN SPACES TO
IMPROVE BIODIVERSITY

SEE THE ONLINE MAP www.bit.ly/GreenAltonSites



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.
