



Cycle Alton Newsletter

February 2025

The New Year is now well underway with noticeably lighter mornings and evenings, although long-awaited spring weather is yet to arrive. While you're waiting, have a read of our newsletter!

Bicycle Rides to build confidence

For those who are hesitant about cycling in our local Alton traffic, Cycle Alton is running a series of led bicycle rides in March which aim to increase confidence and deliver skills to would-be cyclists to cope safely with the traffic.

Topics to be covered include local safe routes, appropriate clothing, road positioning, hazards to watch out for and negotiating junctions and roundabouts.

To be held on Saturday mornings, the rides will be about five miles long, and each will begin and return to either Chawton or Holybourne.

This is open to anyone who needs a confidence boost, and will be led and accompanied by experienced cyclists.

Bookings are already being taken and places are limited. To reserve a place on any or all of the rides, please email us at cyclealton@gmail.com.

Hesitant about cycling in traffic?

Build your confidence on our led bike rides!



Dates:
Saturday 1st March
Saturday 8th March
Saturday 15th March
Saturday 22nd 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




Ladies' Bicycle Maintenance Workshops



The third series of the ladies' bicycle maintenance workshops is currently midway through, ably led as always by Hilary Hill.

Numbers are strictly limited to allow everyone to receive the attention they need, and the classes are fully-booked.

The first workshop dealt with puncture repairs, and the second with the adjustment and replacement of brakes.

The third and fourth sessions will cover the adjustment of gears and general maintenance.

Early feedback has been positive, with Lucy commenting that "Hilary is very knowledgeable, patient and a great communicator and teacher."

We thank Hilary for running these sessions again, also the members of Alton Cycling Club who loaned their bike stands, and EHDC Councillor Barbara Tansey who funded the workshops under the East Hampshire Councillor Community Grant Scheme.



NCN route 224 in Jubilee Field

The lack of a suitably dropped kerb to circumvent the almost permanently locked gate at the Cricket Club end of Jubilee Fields was highlighted in the last newsletter. The back path is also part of National Cycle Network route 224 and has been resurfaced. It's now wider and smoother yet still somewhat bumpy for cyclists!

We're pleased to say the dropped kerb issue was rectified by the contractors and it's now much more user-friendly.

Nearby another matter which will be raised with Alton Town Council is the dropped kerb from the car park to the back path. Whenever the car park is open, invariably a vehicle is parked there, blocking the route. Some judiciously-placed hatching might keep it clear for bicycle riders!



E-Bike Hire

Alton Town Council has two electric bikes available for hire, a Carrera Crosscity folding bike and an Orbea Comfort 32. The Orbea has full-sized wheels, and would be perfect for anyone considering joining a local cycle ride but is concerned about the hills!

Local cycling clubs are listed [here](#).

Both bikes are free to hire from 28th February for 10-days at a time.

Visit the ATC [website](#) for more details.



Another chance to win a raffle prize!



Cycling UK is holding its annual Winter Raffle again, with super prizes such as a Raleigh Modum Electric Bike worth £3,399, a Saddle Skedaddle cycling holiday and a luxury safari tent experience. Tickets are £2 each, and every ticket helps fund the charity’s vital projects and campaigns. Get your tickets [here!](#)

The raffle closes on 28th February.



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Website: <https://altonclimatenetwork.org.uk/our-groups/cycle-alton/>

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