



# Cycle Alton Newsletter

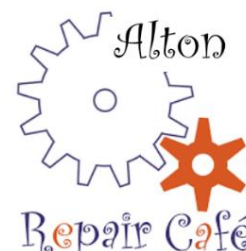
## March 2022

Here's a quick round-up of recent cycling news.

### Alton Repair Café 26<sup>th</sup> February

The next Repair Café is on TOMORROW Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> February at 10:30 - 12:30 in Alton Community Centre.

Volunteers will carry out simple bicycle repairs and adjustments, and will show you how to mend a puncture and adjust your gears and brakes. They also carry out repairs to small electronic and mechanical items, clothing and furniture. Repairs are free, though donations are always welcome.



Email [altonrepaircafe21@gmail.com](mailto:altonrepaircafe21@gmail.com) for more information.

---

### Adult Cycle Training Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March

**FREE** **ADULT CYCLE TRAINING COURSES**

**SATURDAY 19<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2022**  
Venue: Amery Hill School Playground, Alton  
Two sessions: 10.00am or 1.00pm

Is this you?

- I can ride a bike, but...
- ...I get a bit wobbly at times!
- ...I need more confidence on the roads!

• Sessions last two hours  
• Courses run by **CycleRight**  
[www.cycle-right.co.uk/](http://www.cycle-right.co.uk/)

Does your bike need maintenance? Visit our local bike repairers  
• Hilary at h.kryll@cycle-right.co.uk or 07769 903273  
or look at <http://www.cycle-right.co.uk/> 07885 075536

**BOOK at**  
[cyclealton@gmail.com](mailto:cyclealton@gmail.com)  
or tel: Chris on 07815 670191  
at any, your local & preferred time.

The next FREE cycle training courses will be held on Saturday 19th March in Amery Hill School playground at 10am and 1pm. Each session is limited to five participants so early booking is recommended by emailing [cyclealton@gmail.com](mailto:cyclealton@gmail.com) or ringing Chris on 07815 670191.

Training is offered at two different skill levels: those who need basic bicycle handling skills and will remain in the playground, and those who want to gain confidence and will be taken out on local roads by the instructor. When booking please state which level you're at, and you'll be offered one of the sessions to fit in with others who have booked.

At the time of writing half the places have gone!

---

### Cycle Alton's town centre proposals

After forming in 2020, Cycle Alton's first project was a proposal to help revitalise the town centre by discouraging drivers using the High Street as a through-route, on the back of the government's promotion of active travel to address the climate emergency.

Our plan was to remove all on-street parking; closing the lower High Street to private cars, allowing access only for buses and vehicles of disabled people; provision of a contraflow cycle lane to enable two way cycling through town centre, with additional seating, planters and bike parking.

We believe this would alleviate the noise, nuisance, and air quality issues associated with cars, while making visiting the town centre a more pleasant experience. The majority of the 116 town centre businesses we consulted were in favour.

After a presentation to Alton Town Council (ATC) it was forwarded to Hampshire County Council (HCC) for consideration as part of their Alton 'town centre health check'.

At a recent Alton Strategy Group meeting which Barbara from Cycle Alton attended, the results of the health check were presented, but our proposal seems to have got lost along the way.

As a result, our core group has emailed Cllr Rob Mocatta, the meeting chair, and all attendees, to remind them of our proposal and to request it be reconsidered for inclusion.

If you care about our lovely town and how it could be improved, please be ready to give your views in a forthcoming public consultation. We have a rare chance to have public money spent on Alton. We want HCC to be aware of what everybody thinks, not just the few who write into The Herald!



### Sustrans launches updated 'Paths for Everyone'

Sustrans has launched an updated plan for a UK-wide traffic and barrier-free national cycling and walking network (NCN) suitable for "a sensible 12-year-old travelling alone". It wants most towns of 10,000 people or more to be linked by these routes, by improving and growing the existing 12,786-mile network.

Only a third of the NCN is currently traffic-free, a third is classed as very poor, and 63% is good or very good.

In 2020 Sustrans removed 3,733 miles, a quarter of the network, which no longer met the charity's goals of "paths for everyone".

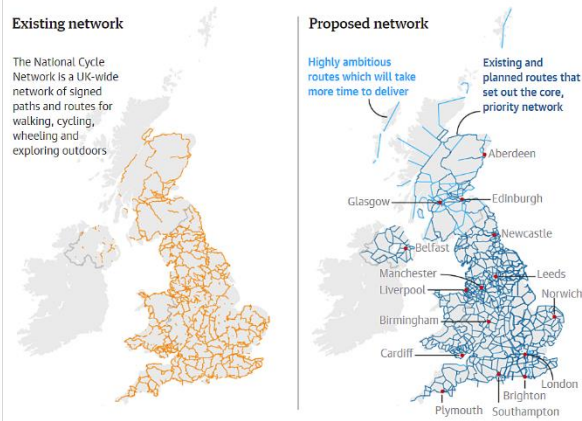
In the coming year Sustrans plans to identify new traffic-free sections and "quiet ways" on existing roads, with speed limits of 20mph in urban areas, and 40mph in rural areas. Relating this to our local area, the settlements of Alton & Bordon, for instance, both with over 10,000 people, are linked by a narrow, busy B-road. Most cyclists avoid it, and it's difficult to see how it could ever be suitable for 'a sensible 12 year old travelling alone' to use it, even if traffic travelled at 40mph.

Another challenge would be to link up NCN route 224, which currently ends near the station, to Farnham via Bentley. This was originally planned but hasn't happened as some of the roads it would use have a 60mph speed limit on them.

<https://www.sustrans.org.uk/our-blog/news/2022/february/paths-for-everyone-three-years-on/>



#### **The plan is to connect every settlement of 10,000 or more people to the cycle network**



## Anstey Park barrier

We received a reply to our request for the Open Spaces Committee to reconsider replacing the barrier in Anstey Park which had been removed. We believe preventing through-traffic in the park would turn this into a people-orientated space, making it safer, quieter, less polluted and a more pleasant experience for visitors.

Unfortunately the reply from Cllr Suzie Burns was negative, but she added that ATC has authorised resurfacing repairs and remarking of the roadway through Anstey Park. She expects the road marking and signage to slow traffic down.

~~~~~

## Locally-organised bicycle rides to enter

Two local cycling clubs are putting on cycling events to raise funds for charity. The Alton section of Cycling UK is organising its annual Phil Hampton Memorial Ride in memory of a local man who was killed while cycling 20 years ago. To be held on 19<sup>th</sup> March, there is a choice of a 30 or 50-mile route, and a donation of at least £5 is requested in aid of the Cyclists' Defence Fund.

<https://www.cyclinguk.org/campaign/cyclists-defence-fund>

Full details of the event can be found here: <https://www.cyclinguk-northhampshire.org.uk/index.php/2022/01/07/phil-hampton-memorial-ride-saturday-19th-march/>

Meanwhile, Alton Cycling Club is organising an Audax ride for the first time on 10<sup>th</sup> July in memory of former club member Jim Woods, and profits will go towards Brainstrust, the brain tumour charity. Details are in the link, and early entry is recommended as there will be a limit of 60 riders.

<https://audax.uk/event-details?eventId=9628>

If you're unfamiliar with Audax there's a useful page here explaining the aim of the rides: <https://audax.uk/about-audax/new-to-audax/>

~~~~~

## Better Ways to Travel: A talk on Sustainable Transport 14<sup>th</sup> March

**Better Ways to Travel:**  
**Sustainable Transport**

Online public meeting open to all  
**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March at 7:30pm**

Please email [altonclimatenetwork@gmail.com](mailto:altonclimatenetwork@gmail.com) for the Zoom link

Excessive road use and climate breakdown go hand in hand. Road transport accounts for a quarter of carbon emissions in the UK. Join us to discuss the options for reducing private car use, air pollution and improving health.

Chris Todd, founder and director of Transport Action Network (TAN) will share the latest thinking on transport policy and how it can benefit the community.

Cycle Alton will then update us on their work on making cycling safer locally.

**The 205 Carshare**  
A public transport service from East Tisted, West Tisted, Monkwood, Newton Valence, Upper Farringdon and Farringdon into Alton

And bring your own ideas and thoughts on transport in a climate emergency.

What does sustainable travel look like? In Hampshire, emissions from transport are significantly higher than the national average. Find out how we can reduce them and what the options might be for Alton and its surrounding villages.

Chris Todd, founder of Transport Action Network, will share the latest thinking on transport policy and how it can benefit the community. This online public meeting is open to all.

Time & date: 7.30pm on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March.

Email [altonclimatenetwork@gmail.com](mailto:altonclimatenetwork@gmail.com) to receive the link.

~~~~~



## Alton Climate Action Network's "Gumbi 9 Bikes Appeal"



To help fight severe malnutrition caused by poverty and climate breakdown, ACAN has supported permaculture training for 9 young people from Gumbi village in Malawi. The Gumbi Alton Paradise Plot now has 50 different types of fruit and veg - first harvest in April/May. But the land is 30 minutes walk from the village.

ACAN IS LAUNCHING AN APPEAL FOR FUNDING FOR A BIKE FOR EACH YOUNG FARMER, EACH COSTING £90.

If you can help, please donate on the Gumbi button on <https://altonclimatenetwork.org.uk/donate/>

Thank you! This project is transforming lives.

~~~~~

### Cycle Alton Meeting

The minutes of our last meeting are here:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1kBwz6ta3W7ug7ruO2u4fli9yVIJ\\_LAo-/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1kBwz6ta3W7ug7ruO2u4fli9yVIJ_LAo-/view?usp=sharing)

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm. The Zoom link is here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83349876976?pwd=SWZnaURXcVRrOSTtN3k4U1psZFRPUT09>