

MARCH 2021
ISSUE 2

ACAN SCHOOLS' NEWSLETTER



IN THIS ISSUE

GARDENING FOR WILDLIFE

Find out more about our inaugural wildlife garden

Dates for your diary

Alton's Eco-Fair and much more

Eco-Friendly Easter

Ideas for an eco-friendly Easter



ALTON'S INAUGURAL COMMUNITY GARDEN

ACAN's wildlife group, AVLAN (Alton & Villages Local Action for Nature), was recently granted permission to turn an area of grassland on the Borovere Gardens/Butts Road junction into a wonderful community wildlife garden. Ever since, volunteers have been busy planting with the aim of attracting wildlife to this nature-depleted area and to inspire us all to attract wildlife into our own gardens.

It is early days for the plot but despite this much progress has already been made with a compost bin and water butt installed in the corner to be used for the plot. In addition, volunteers have also planted wildflower seeds to attract pollinators as well as perennials, shrubs and a crab apple tree. If you would like to get involved, please email: altonactionfornature@gmail.com.

With nature needing our help more than ever, it is increasingly important to make our gardens wildlife-friendly. Simple acts like feeding the birds, installing a wildlife pond or by planting pollinator-friendly plants like wildflowers are great ways to start. For more information and lots of great ideas, [click here](#).



ACAN – SPRING EVENTS GUIDE

With the gentle easing of Covid restrictions, it is hoped that ACAN volunteers will be out and about this Spring with a range of events planned, including the very exciting inaugural Eco-Fair on Sunday 11th July in the Public Gardens.

Do visit our website [by clicking here](#) for more details about our regular events. Here are just a few events which you might like to put in your diary:

26th April: The Slow Fashion Revolution

Film and discussion with Anne Sayer of [Planet Aware](#)

8th May: Alton Repair Café

Public Gardens – 10am – 1pm

15th May: ALFI Seedling Swap

Market Square from 10am



11th July: Eco Fair

Public Gardens – all day

There will be displays, talks, music, art, food and drink, stalls, re-use area, children's trail and much more...

Top Tips for... a Sustainable Easter

With Easter just around the corner, the shops are full of chocolate treats in all shapes and sizes. If you haven't bought yours yet, here are some things to consider so that your family can enjoy a sustainable and ethical Easter.

1. Packaging

- Think about the packaging when you buy your eggs.
- Card and foil are definitely materials to look out for as both can be recycled – card in the black bin and foil at the tip.
- Try and avoid plastic as we can't recycle it in East Hampshire.

Thankfully, there are lots of brands to choose from which are plastic-free, including Cadbury's and many of the supermarkets who are offering a good choice of plastic-free Easter Eggs this year. Alternatively, visit the brilliant [Fill Up](#) in Alton where you will find delicious Divine eggs which are both plastic-free and very ethical.

2. Fairtrade

Before you put your Easter Egg in the trolley, check the labelling. Has the cocoa been farmed fairly as part of a scheme like Fairtrade? Fairtrade ensures that farmers get paid fairly for their produce, that they work in decent working conditions and that they are able to farm sustainably. Generally you will pay a bit more for Fairtrade which is actually a good thing because you can be rest assured that the cocoa farmer will have been paid fairly. If price is an issue, buy a smaller egg so that it is more affordable. Good brands to look out for are Divine – available at Fill Up in Alton, Green and Blacks plus many of the supermarkets sell Fairtrade – look out for the label.

Want to find out more about ACAN? Check out our website or follow us on social media.

Website:

<https://altonclimatenetwork.org.uk/>

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