



**We'd love to see you at ACAN's
stall in the Market Square
Catch up on news, views and eco
stocking fillers**

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After a predictably disappointing COP26 we in ACAN have chosen to focus on the festive season as we recharge our batteries ready to get back to work in 2022.

Look out for our New Year Resolutions newsletter in January.

In this newsletter:

[ACAN stall at Xmas Market Sat 11th Dec 10am - 2pm Market Square](#)

[Community Share Xmas Special Sat 11th Dec 10am - 12 noon St Lawrence's Parish Centre](#)

[Alton Repair Cafe Sat 11th Dec 10am - 12:30pm Alton Community Centre](#)

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ACAN at the Christmas Market

Saturday 11th December from 10am - 2pm in the Market Square.

Do come along to catch up on news and views and pick up some eco stocking fillers or bring the children and make your own Christmas crackers.

We will be joined by Energy Alton with their Powering Up display.



Alton Community Share

Christmas special 10-12 noon at St Lawrence Parish centre.
With a great selection of Christmas jigsaws, pre-loved gifts and
stocking fillers.

Plus our eco-friendly cracker-making workshop.

Traditionally, Christmas crackers are perhaps the most environmentally unfriendly items of the season, containing plastic tat that nobody really wants, so try making your own with us this weekend. We'll have craft supplies, ribbon, up-cycled decorations, the all important snap and even treats to put inside. Get crafty and make your own crackers to take away.



Every time you visit and borrow something from Alton Community Share, you're making a choice for your family, **REDUCING** landfill waste, **REUSING** a pre-loved toy or game, and when you return that item, **RECYCLING** it for another family to enjoy.

Every time you donate, you're supporting our community to help each other, and helping families to discover new toys, books and games. You're helping someone else to discover a new craft, learn a new game, enjoy a jigsaw and above all, helping families to make sustainable choices.

We can't wait to see you next weekend.

P.S. Dates for your diaries in 2022: 22 January, 12 & 26 February, 12 & 26 March



Alton Repair Cafe

Bring your items for repair along to Alton Community Centre on Sat 11th December from 10:30 am to 12:30pm

The repair team will be at your service to assist and advise you on repairs to small household items. Please only bring a maximum of two items per person so that we can support as many people as possible each time.

Young ACAN

have now received their Community Fund grant and are champing at the bit to get started with their plans.

1. Firstly a social survey to establish how much young people already know about the environmental crisis we face and what they want to do about it. For this they are seeking professional help so if you would like to apply for this role please take a look at the [spec for the survey and analysis](#) required and then contact altonclimatenetwork@gmail.com

2. It is now time to recruit some more young people to join the team and spread the word so if you or anyone you know aged 10 -24 would like to get involved do suggest they get in touch on Instagram (@youngacan) or via the email address altonclimatenetwork@gmail.com

3. The first public event on their agenda will be addressing the problem of Fast Fashion so on Saturday 2nd April they will be running a clothes swap in the main hall at the Alton Maltings.

4. Then in July they will be hosting a conference for representatives from local schools to come together talk about the climate crisis and take practical steps to address it.



Alton Library's Earth Matters Display

Is a wonderful collection of books on all things eco. Do drop in before Christmas to browse and borrow. You will find it at the rear of the ground floor not far from the Energy Alton / ACAN display which is always worth a look.



I can personally recommend the delightful "**How to Break Up with Fast Fashion - A guilt free guide to changing the way you shop - for good**" by **Lauren Bravo**. This book is light, funny and packed full of practical tips to help us rethink our relationship with our clothes.

AVLAN

(Alton & Villages Local Action for Nature)

held an open meeting on Zoom on 25th Nov
There was much positive progress to report -



- The award-winning Butts Road Community Garden (EHDC Licence)
- Rakemakers Wildlife Garden Holybourne (EHDC Licence)
- Goodwood Close wildflower meadow – in the planning stages
- Rewilding at ABRI's Orchard House – in the planning stages
- Liaison with the Adopt Alton station group about planting for pollinators and other wildlife around the station
- Alton-wide mapping of possible sites for reduced mowing and wildflowers on verges, selected green spaces across the town, and tree planting
- Invertebrate sampling of the River Wey for water quality monitoring re-started in November, next date 8th January

Please volunteer to help with AVLAN's schemes for improving green spaces for wildlife across the town! We are looking forward to many more schemes starting in 2022.



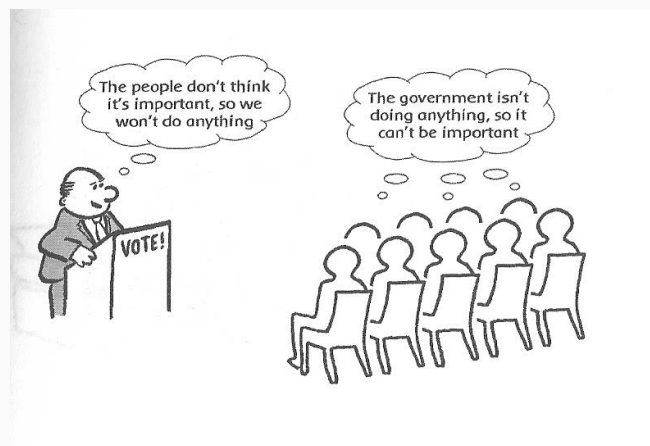
Lobbying & Campaigning group update

We are very sorry to see James & Lesley Willis and Jenny Griffiths retire from this group. Their contributions to date are much appreciated and will be sorely missed but we know they will be active, as ever, in other areas of ACAN's work.

The group met to regroup on Monday and decided to focus on just three themes:

1. Divestment from pension funds and other investments, with a particular focus on Hampshire County Council (HCC)
2. Holding East Hants District Council (EHDC) and HCC to account on their green promises. In particular we will be chivvying EHDC on their recent promises of:
 - a. An interim planning policy to insist that all new homes will be built to sustainable standards
 - b. A new "Green Team" to push the eco-agenda. So badly needed as currently we have one person working 2 days a week to deliver a green future for East Hants.
 - c. to plant a tree for every resident of EHDC (a rather older promise from July 2019)
3. Sheila John will continue to produce monthly articles for the Making a Difference page on the ACAN web site. The next will be on New Year Resolutions in January. She will also be interviewed by David Way on Wey Valley Radio on Thursday 13th January at 10am.

If anyone would like to join our merry band do email altonclimatenetwork@gmail.com



ACAN speakers always available

Do remember that we are always happy to provide speakers / facilitators for audiences young and old.

Here is our Chair Jenny Griffiths sharing a fun afternoon with the cubs at Four Marks last month.

Next month Jenny will be addressing the Alton Horticultural Society and Phinna Brealey will be talking to the Chawton WI.



Wellbeing Fair

At Alton Community Centre on Sunday 16th January 10am - 2pm.

New Year, New You!

Come along to our Wellbeing Fair for pampering taster treatments, stalls with food, sustainable eco friendly products and & lots of goodies to pamper yourself this January.



Call to Action

We all know we need to act now.

Here in ACAN we have quite a [range of groups](#) already set up and many more ideas of things we would like to do if we had more volunteers, and 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.

If you would like to help please use the button below to go to our CAF donate page.

Many thanks.

[Donate to ACAN](#)