



Alton Climate Action & Network New Year Newsletter January 2021

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We in ACAN are certainly not alone in being glad to see the back of 2020. Not that our ever-growing network hasn't achieved a remarkable amount despite the restrictions we have been operating under. Alton Community Cupboard rose magnificently to the pandemic challenge, going from 2 to 6 sessions and supplying about 100 families every week. The Community Share opened in May loaning toys, games and more donated by the community to families. Both of these initiatives reduce waste. New groups were formed including Riversearch (River Wey), Cycle Alton and Action on Plastics. And so much more besides.

If you haven't done so already, do take a look at the [ACAN highlights of 2020](#) on our web site.

A big thank you to all our volunteers without whom none of this would have been possible.

In this newsletter:

[Swimming against the plastic tide 7:30pm Wednesday 13th Jan](#)

[AVLAN relaunch 7:30pm Monday 25th Jan](#)

[The Need to Grow 7:30pm Monday 15th Feb](#)

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[New Year Resolution - be better informed](#)

Centre for Alternative Technology

Future Learn

Think Resilience

Climate Outreach

As part of our action on plastics we are hosting what promises to be an informative, challenging and fun event on plastics – do join us to find out why plastic pollution matters so much and what we can do about it.



Swimming against the plastic tide: are we helpless?

Wednesday 13 January 2021 at 7.30 pm

Email altonclimatenetwork@gmail.com for the Zoom link

Alton Climate Action & Network is hosting a presentation by Alison Melvin, founder of the Binsted Eco Network, looking at the facts - and some of the myths - concerning our use of plastics, and exploring whether and how we can break the plastic habit.



The event will include a quiz and discussion, and information about what's going on locally to combat plastic pollution, and how you can get involved.



Alton & Villages Local Action for Nature

AVLAN are hosting a zoom meeting to relaunch their activities on **Monday 25th January at 7:30pm** do email altonclimatenetwork@gmail.com for a link.

Join the meeting for a chance to influence the direction AVLAN takes in 2021 and the actions it focuses on. The meeting is open to all nature lovers in the local area with ideas and time to bring to the group.

Film Discussion Night

As part of our series of film nights we are asking everyone to view "[The Need to Grow](#)" ahead of a zoom discussion meeting on Monday 15th February at 7:30pm. The film is free to view, just follow the link, sign in and you will have 4 days to watch the film, so you may prefer to wait until the week before the discussion so that the content is still fresh in your mind.

This film focuses on the issues of the rapid loss of farmable soil and the current fragile state of our planet through our soil. It follows 3 main characters—8-year old Girl Scout, Alicia Serratos; a regenerative urban farmer, Erik Cutter; and inventor, Michael Smith. For me Smith is the star of the show with his Green Power House invention that functions as a closed-loop energy generator that sequesters carbon, grows algae, and produces a nutrient-rich, organic soil vitalizer...

Please email altonclimatenetwork@gmail.com for a link to the discussion and be sure to have watched the film before Monday 15th February.



Your free viewing will end in:

3

days

23

hours

49

mins

34

secs

Once you have signed up you will have 4 days to watch the movie free.

ACAN's plans for 2021



- Globally the focus will be on COP26 to be held in Glasgow in November. With the UK hosting we are hoping for some strong, positive action from our government and we will continue to lobby locally to push for meaningful changes in targets and regulations. As Alok Sharma, who will be presiding over the COP, has said “**To remain in line with the Paris Agreement, we must reduce our emissions up to 5 times quicker over the next ten years than we have over the past twenty.**” So plenty of room for improvement here.
- **Alton Local Climate Action** – we are planning a new outreach initiative to engage local community influencers, groups and households in action and behaviour change, at ward level and below (250-800 households)
- Once the Tier 4 restrictions are lifted we hope to launch **Philosophy for Communities (P4C)** - aiming to set up reflective discussions on topical issues by small, preferably diverse, groups of citizens.
- **Gilbert White Museum** - strengthening our partnership on climate change and biodiversity education.
- Encouraging local schools to go for **Plastic free status**, starting at the Butts.
- **Green Open Homes event** (virtual) to be organised by Energy Alton.

New Year Resolutions

The Covid restrictions have resulted in many people finding they have a lot more time on their hands and with that in mind we wondered how many of you have made a new resolution to become better informed?

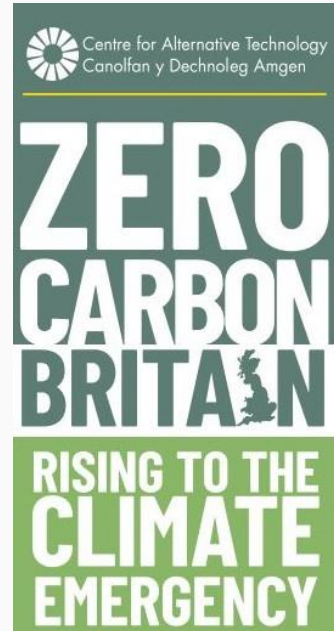
Below are some suggestions to try. If you have come across others do let us know and we can set up a library of links to share on our web site:



Many of you will have heard of the Centre for Alternative Technology in Wales. You may also be aware they host a variety of webinars and online events. These are often subject to fees on a sliding scale to accommodate people with differing incomes. [CAT Webinars & Online Events](#)

They also provide [free, independent and impartial advice](#) on a wide array of topics relating to sustainability and sustainable living: renewable energy, green building and renovation, water and sewage treatment, organic growing, and more.

And for those of us who are daunted by the 204 page [Zero Carbon Britain](#) report published in 2019 I can recommend the 8 page [executive summary](#) and the [social media pack](#) for some excellent videos and visuals.



Future Learn host a whole variety of online courses, which are mostly free, unless you want a certificate that will look good on your CV. Learners are expected to study between 3 - 6 hours per week and most courses last for 4 – 6 weeks. They are aimed at lay people and delivered by academics so this is a good place to get away from the typical hype and bias of social media.

Subjects covered include:

[Climate change](#)

[Sustainability](#)

[Food Technology](#)

[Ecology](#)

[Agriculture](#)



think resilience

[Think Resilience](#) is a free online course that starts by showing how we got to where we are today and then goes on to provide concrete actions we can take to build resilience in our own local communities. By taking this course you will:

- Deepen your understanding of the interactions between human and Earth systems.
- Become a better practitioner and advocate for sustainability.
- Make clearer sense of the complex issues society is facing.
- Learn how to take action to build community resilience.

The course is delivered as a series of 22 videos totalling about 4 hours viewing time. You can go through them as fast or slowly as you like. There are links to optional extra materials.



Climate Outreach as an organisation has been researching how to communicate climate change effectively for over 15 years and has an enormous library of research papers, videos, webinars and blogs on their web site.

<https://climateoutreach.org/media/>

In a nutshell most people glaze over when presented with graphs and statistics – to reach them we need to tell stories that reflect their own world view. But, of course, there is much more to it than that – do take a look.