



COP28 is off to a good start with agreement, on Day 1, to the set up of a Loss and Damage fund, with many pledges already received, including \$50 million from the UK.

Website: altonclimatenetwork.org.uk Email: altonclimatenetwork@gmail.com
Facebook: [@AltonClimate](https://www.facebook.com/AltonClimate) Twitter: [@AltonClimate](https://twitter.com/AltonClimate) Instagram: [alton.can](https://www.instagram.com/alton.can)

What do we want for Christmas?

More than anything we want a successful COP with a serious commitment to the fast phasing out of fossil fuels - Watch this space!

In the meantime we can do our own bit locally to make this the ***cleanest, cheapest, most stress free*** Festive Season ever for ourselves, our families and our communities.

And the great thing about going low impact is that we have loads of time for the most important things like having fun with family and friends and making memories to cherish in years to come.

10 tips for a low impact, low cost, low stress Christmas

1. Arrange a secret santa for all the adults in the family. Less stuff - more fun.
2. [Make your own Advent Calendar](#) or buy a [re-usable](#) one and fill it with written ideas of fun things to do with the family e.g. singing carols or making gingerbread biscuits. See below for the simplest idea of all - a chain of 24 jokes!
3. Why not just send cards to people you are not going to see.
4. Buy it in Alton if you can.
5. Try the charity shops first or one of the "pre-loved" online shops.
6. [Make your own Christmas crackers](#) or buy a fun [self assembly pack](#) so you can fill them with things you know your family will like - and, of course, you can always have a booby prize like a brussel sprout!
7. Plan meals ahead to avoid waste and avoid impulse buys.
8. If you don't like sprouts or Christmas pudding cross them off the shopping list. It's OK, the Brussel sprout police will not come knocking at your door!
9. Try wrapping presents in old magazines or newspaper tied up with ribbons or string, avoid glossy wrapping paper, sticky tape and tinsel none of which can be recycled,
10. Chill out and have fun.

In this newsletter

[Back on the Rack](#) - photos of festive fun with Young ACAN

[Call to Action on Farnborough Airport Expansion Plans](#)

[ACAN talks meat free](#)

[Good News](#)

[Bike Maintenance Sessions for Women](#)

[HESTA - Home Energy Support Team Alton](#)

[Eco Cafe and Eco Chats](#)

[A Fruit Tree in Every Garden](#)

[The Great Climate Fight](#)

Dates for your diary

[Litter Pick](#) Thu 2nd Nov 10am Ravens Square, GU34 2LL

[Alton Community Share](#) Sat 11th Nov 10am-12noon, St Lawrence Parish Centre GU34 2BW

[Alton Repair Cafe](#) Sat 9th Dec 10:30-12:30 Alton Community Centre, GU34 1HN

[St Lawrence Xmas Tree Festival](#) 9th & 10th Dec St Lawrence Church GU34 2BW

[Transforming our World](#) Public Talk Mon 15th Jan 7:30pm on Zoom

[Volunteering with ACAN](#)

[Donate to ACAN](#)

Back on the Rack - Festive Special

A great time was had by all at Young ACAN's 4th Back on the Rack clothes swap on Friday 24th November. With the help of so many young volunteers, many from Eggars School, the display of festive jumpers, winter coats and party clothes looked very inviting and we were able to save:

51.78 Kgms of clothing from the incinerator

1294.50 Kgms of carbon emissions

We also welcomed some regular textile repairers from Alton's Repair Cafe to advise on upcycling and provide opportunities for creative repurposing of several garments.

Well done to everyone involved.





Call to Action- Please comment on:

Farnborough Airport Expansion Planning Application

As you probably know Farnborough Airport wants to:

- a) increase the maximum number of annual aircraft movements from 50,000 to 70,000 per annum, including an increase in non-weekday aircraft movements from 8,900 to 18,900 per annum,
- b) amend the aircraft weight category of 50,000 - 80,000 Kg, to 55,000 - 80,000 Kg, and an increase from 1,500 to 2,100 annual aircraft movements within this category, including an increase from 270 to 570 annual aircraft movements for non-weekdays,

This plan has been submitted to Rushmoor Borough Council whose deadline for comments is:

Monday 18th December

To ensure that the objections seriously outnumber the messages of support we are asking you all to [add your comments](#)

please do this now, as it is so easy to forget once you have finished reading the newsletter!

ACAN objects strongly to this application because of the massive increase in greenhouse gas emissions that will result, which can only add still further to climate change. Also the damage that the extra air pollution and noise will do to the air we breathe and the natural environment. See here for [ACAN's charitable aims](#).

To find out more about the damage these increases will cause take a look at:

<https://www.farnboroughnoise.org/>

ACAN talking about the benefits of plant-based foods

On Saturday 25th November ACAN had a stall at the Alton Vegan Market to raise awareness of the huge benefits of reducing the meat in our diets for:

- improving our own health
 - dramatically reducing our greenhouse gas emissions
-

- freeing up farmland for restoring nature and increasing biodiversity

Our new food group is hoping to launch a series of film and discussion groups alongside some practical cookery sessions in the new year. We will need some more volunteers to make this happen so if you have some free time and would like to get involved do contact: altonclimatenetwork@gmail.com



Good News - 1

Beavers are returning to London

You may not see the beavers themselves but look out for the evidence of their presence as in [Paradise Fields near Greenford tube station!](#)

Good News - 2

Wind trees for urban areas

These [metal 'trees'](#) have branches tipped with micro **wind turbines** resembling leaves. They operate in silence and there is no danger of bird collisions. Rather than being connected to the **national grid**, the turbines provide energy directly to a building's existing electrical system.

Cycle Alton's perfect Christmas present idea

Do you know a woman who might benefit from some confidence-building bicycle maintenance sessions run by women for women at Alton Community Centre?

They will provide a space to learn and develop skills for maintaining a bike and dealing with common bike maintenance challenges.

The dates are:

- Monday 12th Feb at 12-1pm, half term (main hall);
- Saturday 9th March at 3-4pm (main hall);
- Monday 18th March at 7-8pm (garden room)

Contact cyclealton@gmail.com for more details.

HESTA Home Energy Support Team Alton

Don't forget the HESTA team are looking forward to hearing from anyone interested in making their home cosier and cheaper to heat.

Find out more

at <https://energyalton.org.uk/energy-advice/home-energy-support-team-alton-hesta/>

or call Energy Alton on 07811 462 659.



Eco-Cafe and Eco-Chats

Come and have a browse! We have displays about ACAN's groups and various environmental issues.

Sometimes we have an "Eco-chat" on a topic led by an appropriate expert or enthusiast.

Kids welcome with a grown up - we have activities to keep them occupied.

Phinna is in the Eco-Cafe every **Thu 3.30 - 5 & Sat 10-12.**



The Fruit Tree in Every Garden Project is back

In partnership with PeCAN we can once again offer fruit trees at reduced rates and hedging whips free.

Order now and collect in Alton in February.

We expect high demand so go on to the website and register your interest now to avoid disappointment.

<https://petersfieldcan.org/projects/a-fruit-tree-in-every-garden>

The Great Climate Fight

If you haven't seen Channel 4's new series [The Great Climate Fight](#) it is well worth a look:

Mary Portas, Kevin McCloud and Hugh Fearnely-Whittingstall make some very important points about this country lagging behind on some basic climate solutions that are already being implemented in many other countries and challenge people in power to explain why we are not doing the same here.

Dates for your diary

ACAN's Monthly Litter Pick

The next pick will be on Thu 7th Dec - 10am - 12 noon

After last month's wash-out, let's have another attempt at meeting in Raven Square, from where we can branch out into Manor Estate, the Lipscombe Rise area or Anstey Park. If you can bring a smaller bag for metal cans for the metal for Africa project, that would be great, but i'll bring a few spares just in case.

If it's still very cold we can shorten the session.

Please email if you can make it to give us an idea of numbers plasticacan@gmail.com



Alton Community Share

wishes all our lovely customers a very Happy Christmas

Next session Sat 9th December

Reduce waste & save money at this free library of jigsaws, games, toys and activities.

2nd & 4th Saturday of the month at St Lawrence's Parish Centre
10am to 12 noon

There will be no sessions on:

Sat 23rd December or Sat 13th January

to give our wonderful volunteers a well earned break



Next Session Sat 9th December

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

9th Dec, 17th Feb, 13th April, 25th May, 20th July

The repair team will be at your service to assist and advise you on repairs to small household items.



St Lawrence Christmas Tree Festival

Since you will be in town anyway for the Community Share, the Repair Cafe and the Farmers market why not go along to St Lawrence Church as well to see Jenny's beautiful, and much loved, 60 year old re-useable tree forming part of their Xmas tree festival

There will also be music from their church organ, a tombola and festive refreshments for sale.

**St Lawrence Christmas Tree Festival
is returning on 9th and 10th
December**

Transforming our World: Changes that Matter

A public talk on zoom by:

Scott Gudrich, ACAN'S Eco-Streets Consultant

on Monday 15th January at 7:30pm

[click here to register](#)

Are you interested in Sustainability Science, Transdisciplinary Approaches and Systems Thinking? Or don't you know but think it somehow sounds relevant? If you answer "yes" to either – or are just intrigued – come to this introductory presentation based on the article "Leverage points for sustainability transformation" by David J. Abson et al from the University of Leuphana in Germany.

<https://leveragepoints.org/>



Your Community Needs You

We all know we cannot rely on COP28 to get the world back on track to protect our environment and community.

"Never before have we had so little time in which to do so much"

Franklin D Roosevelt

Scientists tell us we have until the end of this decade to cut our emissions by half if we are to prevent runaway climate change. Here in ACAN we have 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.

Most grants do not cover running costs, such as insurance, zoom subscription, examination of accounts. If you can help with one off or regular donations please use the button below for our CAF donate page.

Many thanks.

[Donate to ACAN](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).