



**How do you feel about replacing tomatoes with turnips in your salad? This could be one of many adaptations forced on us if we don't up our game on cutting greenhouse gases.**

Website: [altonclimatenetwork.org.uk](http://altonclimatenetwork.org.uk) Email: [altonclimatenetwork@gmail.com](mailto: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)

As Therese Coffey, our Environment Secretary, advises us to eat turnips we must accept that food shortages are going to become a regular occurrence as the impact of climate change and extreme weather events continues to grow.

Not that this particular shortage of salad crops is entirely down to the severe cold snaps suffered in Spain and Morocco. Unfortunately UK farmers have not been able to step in to fill the gap because high energy prices have left lots choosing not to plant up their greenhouses and polytunnels because the cost of heating them in winter means they cannot make a profit.

Our food security will always be vulnerable as long as our farmers cannot make a living growing crops for the domestic market. This is one of the many areas we need to see change as we adapt to the new normal.

Another change we will all need to make is to our diet as a whole. It has been clear for a long time that eating meat – especially red meat, is not sustainable. We could become far more self sufficient if we grew crops directly for human consumption which would have the added benefit of significantly reducing our farming related greenhouse gas emissions as well.

For more information do take a look at the [National Food Strategy](#), in particular The Recommendations in chapter 16 (p142).

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#### **What not to miss**

[Do you have spare storage space for Young ACAN's clothes swaps?](#) Help needed

[Terracycle bins](#) latest news

[Visit the Alton Energy Advice & Eco Cafe](#), Tue to Sat 10am-12pm, 16 Market Square, GU34 1HD

[Request a Free energy survey for your business](#)

[ESD Local Electricity Bill webinar](#)

[The Community Share - meet Jenny](#)

#### **In date order**

[Renewable energy in your business - why now?](#) 1pm Tue 7th Mar online webinar

[Cuppa for the climate](#) 2pm Thu 9th Mar at the Eco Cafe, 16 Market Square, GU34 1HD  
[Community Share](#) Sat 11th Mar 10am-12pm St. Lawrence Parish Centre, GU34 2BW  
[NCT nearly new sale](#) Sat 11th Mar 2 - 3:30pm Alton School, GU34 2NG  
[Get East Hants Green](#) Wed 15th Mar 2-4pm Liss Pavilion, Station Road, GU33 7AQ  
[All you ever wanted to know about heat pumps](#) for businesses 1pm Tue 21st Mar online  
[Rally in Parliament Sq - Find out more](#) 7pm Tue 21st Mar Alton Community Centre GU34 1HN  
[Jenny on Wey Valley Radio](#) on the impact of climate on wildlife 10am Thu 23rd Mar  
[Back on the Rack](#) Sat 15th Apr Alton College GU34 2LX  
[Alton Repair Cafe](#) Sat 15th Apr 10:30 - 12:30pm at Alton Community Centre, GU34 1HN  
[Music Recital](#) Sat 22nd Apr St. Andrew's Church, Medstead, GU34 5LX  
[Energy Alton's AGM](#) Wed 10th May 7pm Alton Community Centre, GU34 1HN  
[Eco Fair](#) 10am-2pm Sun 16th July at Alton Public Gardens GU34 1EN

### **Workshops**

[Find out more about the climate crisis](#)  
[A how-to guide to online activism](#)  
[Mindfully re-wilding ourselves through poetry](#)

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## What not to miss

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### Storage space needed

Young ACAN is now on to their 3rd Back on the Rack clothes swap. These have been incredibly successful and bring a large number of people through the doors. Unfortunately they also result in large amounts of clothing needing to be stored between one event and the next.



**Alton Community Centre** have very generously allowed us to store these in a spare room for the past 6 months but they now need the room back and we are looking for a new storage space.

Do you have spare, dry, storage space to offer, short or long term from mid April?

If so please do email [altonclimatenetwork@gmail.com](mailto:altonclimatenetwork@gmail.com)

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## Terracycle bins - update

Please bring only the [items listed in this article](#) to:

The Alton Energy & Eco Cafe - 16 Market Square, GU34 1HD  
Alton Library, Vicarage Hill Alton GU34 1HT  
Alton Community Centre, Amery Street, Alton, Hampshire, GU34 1HN



Energieque Health Club, Anstey Lane, Alton Hampshire. GU34 2NB  
Resurrection Furniture, 21b High Street, Alton, Hampshire, GU34 1AW

The Terracycle scheme is financially supported by EHDC's Green Team and is included in their short term climate action plan as a community waste project.

## Volunteer with the Terracycle team

If you can help with our new Terracycle collections do get in touch. With a small team we can make light work of collecting and sorting donations and have fun too.

To get involved email [altonclimatenetwork@gmail.com](mailto:altonclimatenetwork@gmail.com)

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## Alton Energy Advice and Eco Cafe

Open 5 days a week Tuesday to Saturday  
from 10am – 12noon.

From April, Energy Alton and ACAN will no longer be offering drop-in energy advice sessions at the Energy Advice and Eco-Café, due to low demand for this service. Energy Alton will still be offering free advice by appointment, just email [energyalton@gmail.com](mailto:energyalton@gmail.com).



The future of the Eco Café itself is currently awaiting a decision by Alton Town Council – see next month's newsletter for the outcome!

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## Free Energy Surveys for small businesses

For a free and independent energy survey  
Phone: 07811 462 659  
Email: [energyalton@gmail.com](mailto:energyalton@gmail.com)  
Or visit us at: [energyalton.org.uk](http://energyalton.org.uk)

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## Local Electricity Bill online event

For those who missed this excellent introduction to the Local Electricity Bill you can [catch it on YouTube](#).





## Meet Jenny a Community Share regular

Jenny and her grandson Liam did the Community Share team a big favour last month by sorting a huge bag of Vtech bits into 4 separate kits - much easier for borrowers to take home and use.

Many thanks to them both.

[find out more in this report.](#)

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## In date order

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## Free lunchtime energy efficiency webinars for businesses

Find out from the experts how to save energy, save money and reduce your carbon footprint

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March at 1.00pm**

**Renewable Energy in your business – why now?**

*Martin Heath – Director of Basingstoke Energy Services Co-operative*

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March at 1.00pm**

**All you ever wanted to know about Heat Pumps**

*Bean Beanland – Director for Growth and External Affairs at the Heat Pump Federation*



## Drop in for a chat every 2nd Thursday of the month.

Join us on Thursday, Feb 9th at 2pm at the Energy Advice Café (Market Square, GU34 1HD) and have a cuppa for the climate! You can be sure of a friendly welcome.

We have comfy sofas, hot drinks and biscuits.

😊🌍 We look forward to seeing you!

## Alton Community Share

Next session Sat 11th Mar

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

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



11th March 2023

2-3.30pm

Alton School, Anstey Lane  
GU34 2NG

Entry by £1 donations  
1.45pm entry for NCT members  
Bring your own bags  
Cake sale!

To sell or volunteer, contact Nadia:  
[altonbordonnctnns@gmail.com](mailto:altonbordonnctnns@gmail.com)

## Get East Hants Green

Do think about signing up to attend what should be useful event.

Phinna Brealey will be speaking on behalf of ACAN and community climate organisations in general - what they can achieve and what still needs significant financial and organisational input from the council.

# GET EAST HANTS GREEN

East Hampshire District Council are hosting a 'Get East Hants Green' event on Wednesday 15 March from 2pm to 4pm, at Liss Pavilion, Station Rd, GU33 7AQ

This event is to engage with stakeholders in the district about the climate agenda and share best practice. Ideas and information gathered will also inform and shape EHDC's future Climate Action.

This will also provide an opportunity to network with other businesses, community groups and councils in the area. Speakers include:

Kerry Raybone, Senior Project Officer Climate Change - HCC  
Pennie Brown, Strategy Manager (Sustainable Growth) - EHDC  
Michelle Snow, Climate and Finance Officer - Petersfield Town Council  
Phinna Brealey, Trustee - Alton Climate Action & Network (ACAN)

For more information and to confirm your place please email [business@easthants.gov.uk](mailto:business@easthants.gov.uk)

EAST  
HAMPSHIRE  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

EAST HAMPSHIRE  
GREEN  
TEAM

BUSINESS  
EAST HANTS

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## Rally in Parliament Square

There is going to be a rally of groups and individuals at Parliament Square from 21st-24th April organised and hosted by Extinction Rebellion. Their aim is to attract 100,000 people from many organisations over the four days.

The number 100,000 is significant as it is the number at which a parliamentary petition will be debated by MPs. Extinction Rebellion wants to show government that people from all walks of life share the same concerns about our futures. This is not about blocking roads, disruption, or arrests. It is about attendance and numbers, creating a critical mass of people that's impossible to ignore.

It would be lovely to see a large contingent from the Alton and villages area join this peaceful gathering outside the Houses of Parliament to be a part of that critical mass.

However some of you may be concerned about what attending such a big event will be like. You are therefore invited to a meeting to provide details and answer all your questions on:

**Tuesday, March 21, 7:30-9:00 at Alton Community Centre** (Light refreshments will be provided.)

Please come along for an informal chat and bring your questions and concerns.

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# BACK ON THE RACK 3

SWAP TILL YOU DROP THRIFT SHOP

## THE REFECTORY

HSDC ALTON COLLEGE

OLD ODIHAM ROAD, GU34 2LX

Swap your  
preloved  
clothes



**Saturday**  
**15th April**  
**11.00 - 13.30**

Clothes drop  
off from 9:30am  
Upcycling Zone





## Next Session Sat 15th April

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

15<sup>th</sup> Apr, 3<sup>rd</sup> Jun, 29<sup>th</sup> July

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

Do come along to support Jenny Griffiths and James Willis performing at this fund-raiser for Gumbi and St. Andrews Church

### St Andrew's Medstead Music Recital Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> April at 6pm



*Come along and enjoy a mix of well loved classical and light music, performed by local artists*

*Tickets - £12.50 (with concessions for children) also include: Finger Buffet and a Glass of Wine or Soft Drinks which will be served in the church hall after the concert.*

*For tickets please contact:  
Sharon Blackshaw on 01420 563937  
E-mail: [seblackshaw@gmail.com](mailto:seblackshaw@gmail.com) or  
Wendy Busby on 01420 564168  
E-mail: [wendy.busby@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:wendy.busby@hotmail.co.uk)*

**Raising money for St Andrews Church and The Gumbi Alton Paradise Project supporting Sustainable Agriculture in Malawi**

<https://altonclimatenetwork.org.uk/our-groups/gumbi-alton-permaculture-paradise-project/>



## Hear how climate change is impacting wildlife

Jenny Griffiths will be talking to David Way on Wey Valley Radio at **10am Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March** about the impact of climate change on wildlife.







# **“WE’VE GOT THE POWER TO CHANGE”**

**Wed 10<sup>th</sup> May 7.00pm**  
**Alton Community Centre**  
**Light refreshments and bar**



- Highlights from our Energy Champions
- Report on Energy Alton’s and Powering Up’s very active work programme
- Including business energy project and Energise South Downs
- And an update from ACAN

*Boosting sustainability at home and in the community*





Alton Town Council and  
Alton Climate Action Network

# ALTON ECO- FAIR

Celebrating Earth  
Friendly Living

**SUNDAY 16TH JULY  
10AM - 2PM**

**PUBLIC GARDENS  
ALTON, GU34 1EN**

**FREE ADMISSION**



WILDLIFE GROUPS  
STORYTELLING  
FACE PAINTING  
PLANT-BASED FOOD ZONE  
PERFORMANCE & ARTS  
POETRY WORKSHOP  
RE-USE ZONE  
COMMUNITY GROUPS  
GROW ZONE

For more information visit [www.altonclimatenetwork.org.uk](http://www.altonclimatenetwork.org.uk)

**Workshops**

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## Find out more about the climate crisis

This workshop offers general information on the climate crisis, its possible effects and what we can do about it at a community level.

What does "global warming" mean for us? What is "too much CO2"? What can we as individuals and communities do to have a positive impact?

We examine some of the main "talking points" of the climate crisis and provide some information on how exactly these topics relate to our lives.

We also talk about the most effective actions we can take and discuss ways individual action could turn into communal action.

Duration: approximately 2h, email us on [ecostreetsalton@gmail.com](mailto:ecostreetsalton@gmail.com) to find out more  
Date and time by negotiation.



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## A how-to guide to online activism!

We can now offer a recording of this workshop to anyone who wants to watch it in their own time.

[Online Activism Workshop](#)

passcode: \*Gc2XJfT

Duration: 34minutes



Where to find reputable petitions on topics that concern you. How to tell an effective petition from a not-so effective one. Anonymous participation - make your opinion count without exposing yourself. Easy ways to interact with the government. Digital citizenship.

This workshop aims to give a quick and easy introduction to campaigning for change on a local, national and global level. Participants will walk away with hands-on knowledge on how to make their voices count in the often overwhelming 'jungle' of online-activism.

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## Poetry Workshop:

### Mindfully re-wilding ourselves

Expand your mind. Explore your creativity. Express yourself.  
We will head out into nature. On the walk, Scott Gudrich (leader of our Eco-Streets project) will talk about the ecosystem we are visiting.

Then I will take the group through some guided contemplation and present an easy to follow outline to get everyone writing poetry based on their sensory and emotional experiences.



Group size limited to 8 people to ensure a personal and intimate setting. Under 18's welcome if accompanied by an adult

email us on [ecostreetsalton@gmail.com](mailto:ecostreetsalton@gmail.com) to find out more

Duration: approximately 1.5h | No prior experience in writing poetry required!

This workshop can be offered at a time to suit for small groups. Individuals can also apply but may have to join with others to get the full benefit

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## **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\*\*](#)