



70,000 Joined the March for Nature at The Big One in London

**And many more joined the pickets outside
government departments.**

See more about The Big One below.

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)

Well The Big One was certainly Big!

It was also fun and inspirational - that was the verdict when 14 of us, who attended the various events, got together to review how it had gone.

Though we were, of course, disappointed at the minimal media coverage and the total lack of a response from our government.

5 of our group were protest newbies who only came because of XR's declared change of tactics away from disruption and arrests, and we were all delighted to see how many representatives of different community groups were there, in force, to say "Me too" to XR's long term demands for government to "Tell the Truth" and "Act Now".

Several of us participated in small scale citizen's assemblies at the event and saw how these would be beneficial in all sorts of scenarios, from local community to national level.

So What Next?

There was so much energy and enthusiasm still in evidence a week later that the obvious question was how do we harness this to get ever more people demanding urgent action from our government?

It is clear the government is not going to up their game until the environmental movement gets too big to ignore and with an election next year surely this is an opportunity we must grasp.

So if you want to be part of our attempts to reach that magical public opinion tipping point then email altonclimatenetwork@gmail.com

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Dates for your diary

[Energy Alton AGM](#) Wed 10th May 7pm Alton Community Centre, GU34 1HN

[Cuppa for the climate](#) 2pm Thu 11th May at the Eco Cafe, 16 Market Square, GU34 1HD

[Community Share](#) Sat 13th May 10am-12pm St. Lawrence Parish Centre, GU34 2BW

[ALFI & AVLAN stalls](#) Sat 13th May 10am - 2pm at Alton Public Gardens

[Aviation day of action](#) Sun 14th May 10-11am, Farnborough Airport

[Listen to the Children exhibition](#) 15th - 29th May Allen Gallery, Church St, GU34 2BW
[Neighbourhood Plan Review](#) Fri 19th & Sat 20th May Assembly Rooms GU34 1BA
[ATC Bioblitz](#) at Flood Meadows Thu 1st Jun 9am-4pm
[Alton Repair Cafe](#) Sat 3rd Jun 10:30 - 12:30pm Alton Community Centre, GU34 1HN
[AVLAN's People's Plan for Nature](#) Mon 5th Jun 7:45pm Railway Arms, GU34 2RB
Eco Fair Sun 16th Jul 10am - 2pm Alton Public Gardens

Workshops and Courses

[Green skills courses](#)
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News and views

EHDC council elections

Don't forget to check out [how your candidates responded to ACAN's questions](#) before voting in the EHDC elections this Thursday, 4th May and remember to take photo ID with you.

ATC council elections

If you live in Holybourne you will also be voting for your Alton Town Councillor.

The rest of us Alton dwellers will not be voting for our town councillors because not enough people have put themselves forward for election.

This also means there will 3 opportunities for people to be co-opted to fill the empty seats on the council at their first meeting on 17th May.



Would you be prepared to put yourself forward?

Do you know anyone else who would?

There will be training provided for new councillors and you would be required to attend monthly meetings as well as responding to requests for assistance from the residents of your ward.

This is a perfect opportunity to get some more green minded people onto the council to ensure they continue to make the climate and the environment their highest priority in all the decisions they take.

What next after The Big One?

We are looking to set up a group to focus on outreach in our local community.

By engaging with the 80% of people who admit to being concerned about the climate crisis but don't know what they can do about it we hope to put ever more pressure on our government to speed up the transition to the post fossil fuel era that we so badly need.

Do email altonclimatenetwork@gmail.com if you would like to be part of this group.

Energy Advice and Eco Cafe - Update

The cafe is now opening on a drop in basis on Thursdays 3:30 - 6pm and Saturdays 10am - 12pm

Our plans are still developing but we hope to offer activities and displays on different environmental themes, as well as tea and coffee for anyone who drops by.

See social media and the shop window for more details as plans progress.

Energy advice is still available over the phone, or face to face, by appointment - please ring Stu on 07811 462659 or email energyalton@gmail.com



Alton's Community Cupboard

has moved again, this time to

Little Vintage Interiors at the top of Market Street.

Please go to their [Facebook page](#) for details of new opening times and procedures.

Their continued success means they are in need of new trustees, in particular a new treasurer, so if you would like to get involved with this wonderful team and their amazing work please contact Sandy at sandratmarks@gmail.com

Dates for your diary



We've got the power to change

Hydrogen is a controversial alternative fuel - we are invited to hear from **Peter Dixon-Clarke** who is the Chief Financial Officer for [AFC Energy](#)

Wed 10th May at 7pm at Alton Community Centre GU34 1HN

The talk follows Energy Alton's brief AGM - see highlights below.

- 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





Every 2nd Thursday of the month.

Join us on **Thur, May 11th at 2pm** at the Energy Advice and Eco Café (Market Square, GU34 1HD)
This month's topic:

Is activism worthwhile?

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 13th May

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



ALFI & AVLAN

will be attending the Town Council's

Spring Garden Fayre

 in the Public Gardens Sat 13th May 10am - 2pm

Don't miss the ever popular ALFI Seedling Swap - bring any surplus seedlings you have to swap or take whatever you would like for a donation to the continuance of their wonderful work in the town.

Let's cap aviation - International day of action

Some ACAN members will be attending this event at:

Farnborough airport.
10.00 - 11.00am Sun 14th May

There is no intention to disrupt the airport other than to make our presence known. The demonstration will be at the main gate of Farnborough Airport with the aim of getting as many people as possible in photographs. Bring your friends, children, parents, neighbours!

The main gate is at GU14 6XA.
The best parking is at the Monkey Puzzle/Premier Inn, GU14 0LE

We will be joining members of the Farnborough Noise campaign group who will have a banner, large flag and a cardboard "Ban Private Jets" placard. Do bring anything else you have/can make.

For more information and to share lifts please contact altonclimatenetwork@gmail.com



Listen to the Children

Allen Gallery, Church St, Alton, May 15th - 29th
Please note: The exhibition is not designed for children.

If you missed this exhibition at St. Lawrence Church do come along to find out how our children are feeling about the climate and environmental crises.

It is aimed at anyone with an interest in the climate crisis; parents; teachers; mental health professionals etc.

Alongside the exhibition we will be offering the following activities, all free to attend:

- 1. Sat, May 20th, 2pm:** Young People's Poetry Workshop. The poetry workshop is suitable for young people age 14+ Open to all, no previous experience in writing poetry needed. Duration approx. 90 mins.
- 2. Sat, May 20th, 5pm:** 45 min acoustic concert of local Nature Warrior Rock band the Lürxx (www.the-lurxx.com) in the garden.
- 3. Sun May 28th, 2pm:** Climate Change Communications Workshop run by Eco Streets project manager Scott about challenges in communicating climate change and ways to overcome these challenges. Open to all, no previous knowledge needed.
- 4. Mon, May 29th, 11am:** Closing Event with speeches talking about the data behind the exhibition by project manager Scott, a speech by Young ACAN activist Lillie Ewins will be read out. There will be opportunities for discussion.



Alton's Neighbourhood Plan Review

Alton Town Council is developing a new Neighbourhood Plan and ACAN intends to ensure that climate mitigation, protection and enhancement of our natural world as well as adaptation are key priorities within it.



The public are invited to "**Kick off engagement sessions**" taking place on:

Friday 19th May 3 – 7 pm and Saturday 20th May 10.00 am to 1.00 pm

in the Assembly Rooms

This is your opportunity to have a say!
 For more information look at this Facebook Page [@Alton Neighbourhood Plan](#). and watch this [video](#)

If you would like to be part of the ACAN team working on this please email altonclimatenetwork@gmail.com

Help Count the Species at Flood Meadows

Alton Town Council is organising a Bioblitz to identify as many species as possible in a specific area of the Flood Meadows on **Thursday 1st June from 9am - 4pm**.

At a Bio-Blitz, scientists, families, students, teachers, and other community members work together to get a snapshot of an area's biodiversity. This will be used as a base-line to measure any changes (hopefully improvements) over time.

AVLAN will be there running a Riverfly Kick Sampling demonstration at 2pm



Next Session Sat 3rd June

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

3rd Jun, 29th July,

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



Dave Tickner of WWF

will be talking about

The People's Plan for Nature

in the back room of the Railway Arms 26 Anstey Road, Alton GU34 2RB Mon 5th Jun at 8pm.

The talk will be followed by a discussion of how we can get involved in this plan locally.

All welcome



The People's Plan for Nature is a plan created for the people, by the people of the UK – a vision for the future of nature, and the actions we must all take to protect and renew it.



Workshops & Courses

See workshops listed in Listen to the Children above



Green skills courses

Colleges across Hampshire and Surrey have joined together to help tackle the climate crisis by creating two 'Carbon Literacy' courses to give an introduction into what the climate change issue is and how we can all make changes to reduce our carbon footprint.

The courses are FREE and available now, accessed via the Innovation South Virtual Campus (ISVC) here <https://em3.isvc.co.uk/>;

On the ISVC website you will also see courses for local businesses who wish to develop a more sustainable business model, topics include:

- Introduction to Domestic Retrofitting
- Introduction to Retrofit Technologies
- Introduction to Sustainable Resource Management
- Rainwater and Greywater Harvesting
- Tree Planting and Climate Change

Local colleges are also providing free training opportunities for businesses in working with electric and hybrid vehicles and renewable energy technologies such as heat pumps and solar.

Terracycle bins - update

We now have 4 bins around town and deposits are coming in thick and fast so if you can spare some time to help with the sorting do contact altonclimatenetwork@gmail.com



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

Alton Library, Vicarage Hill Alton GU34 1HT
Alton Community Centre, Amery Street, Alton, Hampshire, GU34 1HN
Energique Health Club, Anstey Lane, Alton Hampshire. GU34 2NB
Resurrection Furniture, 21b High Street, Alton, Hampshire, GU34 1AW

This scheme is financially supported by EHDC's Green Team and is part of their community waste project.

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](#)
