



**95 local students enjoy successful Young ACAN Schools' Eco Conference**

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The second Young ACAN Schools' Eco Conference took place on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July at the Alton Maltings, bringing together 95 students from 11 local schools, including Eggar's and Amery and nine primary schools. The theme for this year's conference was 'From Me to the Sea' with the aim of teaching young people about why it is important to protect our watery ecosystems, from our local River Wey to the oceans.

Founded in 2021, Young ACAN is the youth group of ACAN (Alton Climate Action Network). Its key objective is to give young people in the local community a voice for nature and the environment either through its work with the Young ACAN ambassadors or through collaboration with local schools via its Young ACAN Partnership.

The conference launched with an introduction from Young ACAN lead and event organiser, Emma Jones. "What was particularly special about this year's conference was the collaboration between the schools. The conference was planned by a team of local teachers. Through this collaboration, we are sharing the message to our young people that collectively we care about their future and want to equip them with the skills and knowledge which they need, now and in the future, to help protect our planet." Emma's speech was followed by a short presentation from Georgie Maw of the Final Straw Foundation who also led a thought-provoking workshop for secondary students called 'Does one plastic bottle matter?'

In total there were 9 different workshops centred around the following themes: science and nature, the arts and plastic and recycling. Of the nine workshops, two were also linked with the Alton Arts Festival including making a recycled octopus using single-use plastic which is now on display at Alton College. Other workshops

included a rare chance to explore life in the River Wey as well as our oceans using microscopes and magnifying glasses and a hands-on visit to the pop-up Fill Up shop led by owner Louise Bagnall. “It was fantastic to be asked to host a workshop at the Young ACAN Conference. All the children were knowledgeable and passionate about climate issues. It really brought home just how important what we are trying to achieve is; striving to build a sustainable future for their generation and generations to come.”

To conclude the event, students were given the opportunity to use their voice to share what they had experienced and learnt with visiting parents and special guests which included EHDC Councillor Emily Young who funded the event. Young ACAN’s Schools’ Eco Conference was declared a huge success by the workshop leaders, visiting students and their teachers. Alec, a Year 3 pupil at Bentley CE Primary School had this to say about the event, “I enjoyed the whole conference because it was fun. It was also really good to learn all about Young ACAN.”

For more information about the work of Young ACAN, visit our website at [www.https://altonclimatenetwork.org.uk/](http://www.https://altonclimatenetwork.org.uk/)



Students examine microscopic waterborne life



Making models at a workshop on recycling plastic

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## Garden & D.I.Y Tool Library



Does your community group or school ever need a garden or DIY tool for a small project or workshop, use it, then either throw it away or find it sits in a shed gathering dust not being used?

**Alton Town Council has a selection of garden and DIY tools that can be borrowed by calling 01420 83986 or emailing Emily-Jane Messenger on [events@alton.gov.uk](mailto:events@alton.gov.uk)**

- Hand trowels
- Spades
- Forks
- Bulb planters
- Light weight battery strimmer
- Light weight battery leaf blower
- Cordless orbit sander
- Hammer drill
- Impact driver
- Screw driver set
- Drill & screwdriver bit set
- Tool kit
- Claw hammer
- Rubber mallet
- Tape measure
- Allen key set
- Hand dibber
- Long handed weed fork
- Secateurs
- Hedging sheers
- Long handled edging sheers
- Foldaway garden kneeler
- Garden trolley
- telescopic ratchet bypass loppers
- 3 pronged cultivator
- Dutch hoe
- High handrail step ladder 6 rungs
- Car & home pressure washer



Alton Town Council is committed to supporting the community and helping prevent waste. The tools for our share library have been funded by the Hampshire County Council - Waste Prevention Community Grant Fund.



**Launch of Tool Library for local community groups**

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Aided by a grant from the Hampshire County Council Waste Prevention team, Alton Town Council now has a selection of garden and D.I.Y tools that community groups and schools can borrow for free!

The idea behind the scheme is that if there is a community group that requires a tool on a very occasional basis or one-time event, you can borrow them from the share library to prevent those items needing to be purchased and then either stored gathering dust in a shed or even worse being thrown away. It will be free to borrow, but the more expensive items will require a deposit taken until they are returned,

The flyer shown above lists the items that are currently available in the tool library, as well as contact details at Alton Town Council.

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### **Greening Alton gets interactive to link our green spaces**

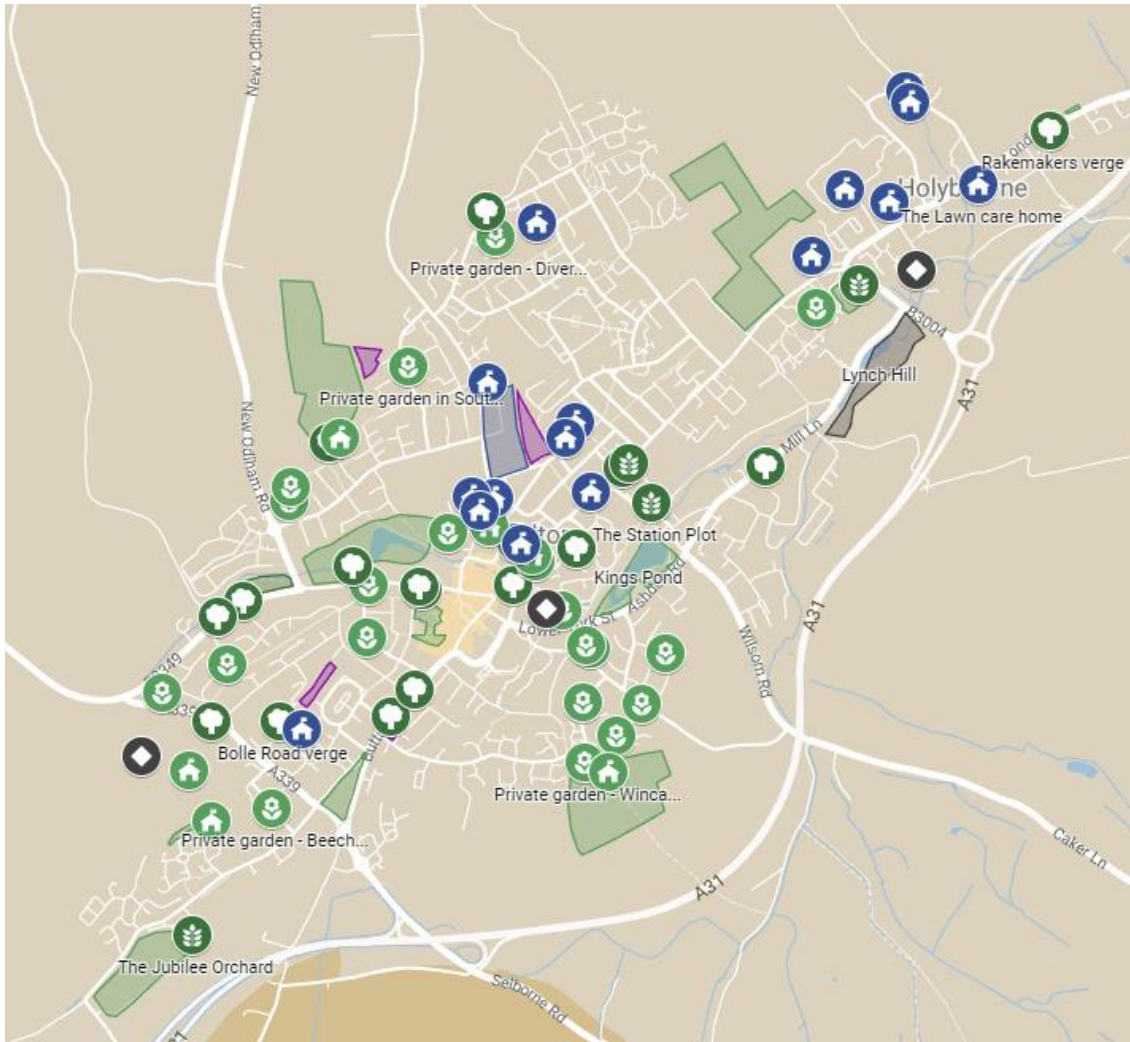
It's easy to include your wildlife-friendly garden on AVLAN's popular Greening Alton map. Just email ACAN's James Willis on [altonclimatenetwork@gmail.com](mailto:altonclimatenetwork@gmail.com). The Greening Alton interactive Google map has now had over 4,400 views and is helping to inspire a movement across the town to map and link green spaces.



Find the map here (the link is case-sensitive): <http://bit.ly/GreenAltonSites>.

You can also view James Willis' new video guide to using the map on ACAN's YouTube channel here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uY8sBumBBn0>

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Screenshot of interactive map

Use QR code to access, or visit <http://bit.ly/GreenAltonSites>.

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### **ALFI celebrate 15 years of growing**

Alton Local Food Initiative (ALFI) held its annual general meeting at The Railway Arms, Alton in July. After a short talk on the year's activity and financial review attendees commemorated ALFI's 15th year anniversary with a home-made celebratory cake.

Alton Local Food Initiative was formed in 2009 to encourage and enable people in our local community to be involved in growing, sourcing and eating local, seasonal and responsibly produced food. This is achieved through several growing plots in and around the town, holding events to share seeds, swap seedlings and promote local produce.

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### Lottery funding award for exciting Young ACAN program

The National Lottery Community Fund is supporting our Young ACAN project, “**It’s THEIR Future – Empowering Young People through Environmental Action**”. The Lottery funding will enable us to pay a Young ACAN Organiser for an exciting work programme led

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by the School Partners group, established by Young ACAN leader Emma Jones, and the activities of the Young ACAN Ambassadors Group.

For more information about the work of Young ACAN

visit: <https://altonclimatenetwork.org.uk/young-acan-the-story-so-far/>



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#### Dates for the diary

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#### **Energy Alton to showcase electric vehicles at Alton Classic Car show : Sat 31st August**

For the seventh year in succession (excluding 2020), ACAN group Energy Alton will have a display of electric cars and bikes in the Alton Lions' Classic Car Show, which is taking place this year on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> August in Alton town centre. Owners will be present with their vehicles to answer questions and ACAN/Cycle Alton/Energy Alton will have a stall for information.

<https://altonclassiccarshow.co.uk/>

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### **Alton Community Share**

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.

*Advance notice: Please note that there will **not** be a Community Share on 24th August*

**Repair Cafe**  
**next session Sat 7th September**

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

**7th Sep, 2nd Nov, 14th Dec**

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



***Please note that if you have a zip that needs replacing you will need to bring a replacement zip with you and it will save our repairers a great deal of time if you have removed the damaged zip before you arrive.***

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**Other ways to help**

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**Volunteer with ACAN**

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, of course, 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](mailto:altonclimatenetwork@gmail.com) and let us know what you would like to do

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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.

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[Donate to ACAN](#)

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