



## ***ACAN members join the Restore Nature Now London march – what we need now is urgent action to protect and restore our natural environment***

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### **Restore Nature Now - London march**

ACAN was proud to be among the 350 supporting organisations of the Restore Nature Now event hosted by naturalists Chris Packham and Megan McCubbin in London, on 22nd June 2024.

A dozen of us went along and were swept up in the theatre of the event with wonderful placards, costumes, music and chanting and were able to enjoy the company of thousands of likeminded people all determined to bring the environmental crisis to the attention of all our parliamentary candidates.

The speeches were inspiring and echoed the need for more urgent work to be done to increase our woefully depleted biodiversity (1 in 6 species in this country are under threat of extinction). Many speakers reminded us that the UK is one of the 10 most nature depleted countries in the world. On the plus side we were also told about many projects that are already addressing the problem and the many ways we can do our bit to help.

[Chris Packham spoke](#) about the need for action and made the point that despite the amount of sewage flowing into our rivers, it is agriculture that is the number one source of river pollution and is responsible for 35% of our greenhouse gas emissions. What we so badly need is a complete rethink of how we grow food and fund farming, for the benefit of ourselves, our farmers and our natural world.

[Dale Vince](#) (founder of Ecotricity and owner of Forest Green Rovers – so far the only vegan football club, but soon maybe just the first) made it very clear that the most important thing we can all do is cut our meat and dairy consumption so that all the land we currently use to grow feed for animals, can be repurposed to grow crops directly for human consumption or rewilded for nature. Find out more about changing your diet on ACAN's [Sustainabites](#) Facebook page.

**Rebecca Speight** of the RSPB reminded us that nature is our best ally in addressing the climate crisis and Taylor Swift was urged to give up her private jet!

Not surprisingly there was a big focus on the sewage being dumped in our rivers with the most memorable and heartfelt chant heard along the march being “Less faeces, more species!”

So please check out ACAN's post about our [East Hants candidates responses to the 5 questions we asked about climate and the environment](#) and **don't forget to vote on 4<sup>th</sup> July.**



What we need now is urgent action  
to protect and restore our natural environment!

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***In this newsletter***

[ACAN: thank you for five incredible years](#)

[Biodiversity increases on Pertuis Avenue](#)

[Good News and Ideas](#)

***Dates for your diary***

[Litter Pick](#) Thu 4th July 10am, Rugby club car park, Anstey Park, GU34 2NB

[Alton Community Share](#) Sat 13th July 10am-12noon, St Lawrence Parish Centre GU34 2BW

[ALFI Annual General Meeting](#) Mon 22nd July 7pm Railway Arms Alton

[Alton Community Share](#) Sat 27th July 10am-12noon, St Lawrence Parish Centre GU34 2BW

[Alton Repair Cafe](#) Sat 20th July 10:30-12:30 Alton Community Centre, GU34 1HN

***Of interest in the neighbourhood***

[Save your business money with a Sustainability journey](#)

[Gardening in a Changing Climate](#)

***Other ways to help***

[Volunteering with ACAN](#)  
[Donate to ACAN](#)

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### **ACAN: THANK YOU FOR FIVE INCREDIBLE YEARS**

On 3 June 2024, a celebration of ACAN's first five years, and of the contributions of the ACAN core group [Jenny Griffiths, Eleanor Hill and Phinna Brealey, who have stepped down from their roles], was organised at Alton Community Centre by four of the principal founders of the charity, Lesley and James Willis and John and Sue Hubbard. It was attended by the Alton Town Mayor, Town and East Hampshire District Councillors, the newly-appointed ACAN Trustees (see June newsletter) and many organisers and volunteers from all the groups in the ACAN network.

After a presentation of the many ACAN initiatives, the meeting thanked Jenny, Eleanor and Phinna for all their work and dedication as the very heart of the organisation.

Read more at:

<https://altonclimatenetwork.org.uk/acan-five-incredible-years/>

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### **BIODIVERSITY INCREASES ON PERTUIS AVENUE**

AVLAN volunteers conducted an annual Orchid count in late June on Pertuis Avenue, with more recorded than previous years. Both the left and right-hand side of the road near the entrance to Ackender Woods have been designated as RVEI (Road Verges of Ecological Importance), which means the council follows a different mowing regime (only twice a year). This is allowing more growth of key species compared to cutting the verge more regularly.

The biodiversity of plants and specifically the number of orchids has improved with this amended mowing regime. The initial count of common spotted orchids in 2022 was 120, but this year over 260 were counted. In addition, AVLAN counted 3 different species of orchid (Common spotted, Pyramidal and Bee). What is also good news is that we are now seeing lots of other wildflowers and in turn more bees, butterflies and other insects. Consequently AVLAN are now considering a separate survey of all the flowers.

It is not advised that people walk along the verge to have a look – there is no footpath and it is busy with traffic - but it is good to know that orchids and biodiversity are thriving.

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## News

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### **Victory in the Supreme Court about the Horse Hill oil field expansion in Surrey.**

On 20th June 2024 the [Supreme Court ruled](#) that the emissions from burning the oil extracted from the expansion of the Horse Hill oil field in Surrey should have been included in the environmental impact assessment produced for Surrey County Council, before they considered the planning application for the expansion of the field.

Up to now only the emissions from the building of the well and its infrastructure were considered. The case was brought by the Weald Action Group and is seen as a landmark ruling which could not just see future applications rejected, but some recent ones, such as Rosebank, losing their planning permission as well.

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## Dates for your diary

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### **General Election - Thursday 4th July**

Please don't forget to vote for Climate and Nature.  
And remember to take photo ID.

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### **ACAN's Monthly Litter Pick**

***The next litter pick will be on Thu 4th July 10am.***

Meet at the British Legion / Rugby Club Car Park in Anstey Park, GU34 2NB

***Please email if you can make it to give us an idea of numbers [plasticacan@gmail.com](mailto:plasticacan@gmail.com)***

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### **ALFI Annual General Meeting and Social**

**Monday 22nd July 2024**

Everyone is warmly invited to ALFI's annual general meeting on Monday 22nd July in the back room of The Railway Arms, Alton. Please do join us at 7.00pm for a 7.15 pm start.

The meeting will consist of updates on the past year for ALFI, and the election of officers - all of which will be very short. We will then move on to socialising - buy your drinks at the bar and ALFI will provide nibbles.

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## Putting air pollution on our local MPs agenda

Wednesday 10th July

**Mums for Lungs** have teamed up with **Hope for the Future** to organise a **webinar on engaging with our MP**, the week after the election. It's on **Wednesday 10th July at 8pm** and we'd love to see as many of you there as possible.

The webinar will cover welcoming our new (or returning) MP, how to build a relationship with them and how to keep air pollution on their agenda. This should be an extremely useful session, coming straight after the election when the chance for change could be high!

Please sign up here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/your-voice-heard-making-an-impact-with-your-incoming-mp-on-air-pollution-tickets-918665722907?aff=oddtcreator>



## Alton Community Share

July sessions Sat 13th & 27th

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

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## Next Session Sat 20th July

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

**20th July, 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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## In the Neighbourhood

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### Save your business money with a Sustainability journey

Join PeCAN and EHDC for a discussion on sustainability on **Tuesday 16 July 2024 8am-10am at Merchistoun Hall, Horndean.**

Businesses are being asked for more and more information about their sustainability journey, from your customers, to your supply chain, even your future employees. PeCAN and EHDC would like to help you understand your sustainability journey, what you could do, and how it could save your business money.

Book your place for free by emailing [business@easthants.co.uk](mailto:business@easthants.co.uk)





## GARDENING IN A CHANGING CLIMATE

Sat 13th July

This course, led by Tom Nielsen who appeared on Gardeners' World (Episode 2, 2023), will provide an overview of the principles of gardening with climate change and biodiversity in mind. Participants will learn how to analyse site conditions and work with nature to create resilient gardens. [Some places still available.](#)

Learn more at: <https://www.sustainability-centre.org/gardening-in-a-changing-climate-course.html>

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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.

[Donate to ACAN](#)

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