



***Climate change is not our fault, but it  
is our problem!***

***How to make a big change for  
minimum effort - see below.***

Website: [altonclimatenetwork.org.uk](http://altonclimatenetwork.org.uk) Email: [altonclimatenetwork@gmail.com](mailto:altonclimatenetwork@gmail.com)  
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## **Chris Packham gave this tip for us all on Earth Day**

***“Move your money out of fossil fuel backing banks.”***

This is one of the easiest and most effective ways to reduce our impact on the planet and sends a powerful message to our most short-sighted banking institutions.

The bank that repeatedly comes top in ethical bank rankings is Triodos Bank, originating from the Netherlands with its UK base in Bristol. It promises to only finance organisations and projects making a positive impact for people and the planet.

Another regularly near the top of the list is Nationwide and they do have a branch in Alton.

To find out more take a look at some of the following links and remember that **CASS** **The current account switching service** is free and promises to take the stress out of changing a current account.

<https://www.currentaccountswitch.co.uk/>

<https://good-with-money.com/2024/01/31/top-7-ethical-current-accounts/>

<https://www.moneysupermarket.com/current-accounts/ethical-banks/>

<https://www.moneysupermarket.com/current-accounts/switching-bank-accounts/>

We should also check out how ethical our pension funds are – see below:

<https://good-with-money.com/2024/02/26/top-9-ethical-pension-funds/>

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/money-mentor/pensions-retirement/private-pension/guide-to-ethical-pensions>

And if enough of us take Chris Packham’s advice we could deliver a significant blow to the big banks who tend to prefer greenwash to green deals.

### ***In this newsletter***

[The Future of ACAN](#)  
[Schools Eco Workshops](#)  
[Alton Sustainable Eating update](#)  
[Good News and Ideas](#)

### ***Dates for your diary***

[Litter Pick](#) Thu 2nd May 10am, Football club car park, Anstey Park, GU34 2NB  
[Energy Alton Net Zero Public Meeting](#) Thu 9th May 7pm Alton Community Centre, GU34 1HN  
[Alton Community Share](#) Sat 11th May 10am-12noon, St Lawrence Parish Centre GU34 2BW  
[Bishop's Sutton Bioblitz](#) Sat 11th May 1-5pm Village Hall, Bishops Sutton, SO24 0AL  
[Our Future Energy Landscape](#) Wed 15th May Alton Community Centre, GU34 1HN  
[ACAN Talk on Swifts](#) Wed 22nd May 7:30pm Alton Community Centre, GU34 1HN  
[Alton Repair Cafe](#) Sat 25th May 10:30-12:30 Alton Community Centre, GU34 1HN  
[Restore Nature Now](#) 12 noon Sat 22nd June March in Central London  
[Alton Green Homes Fair](#) Sat 29th Jun 11am-3pm Assembly Rooms, GU34 1BA

### ***Other ways to help***

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

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## The Future of ACAN

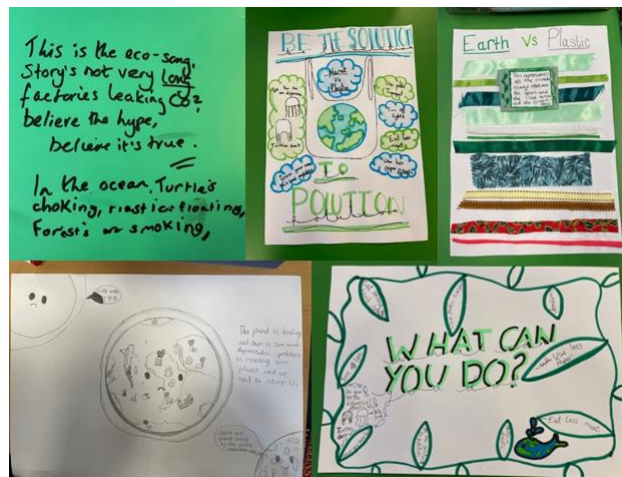
With grateful thanks to the Future of ACAN group we are delighted to report that good progress is being made on the transition to a new management team for ACAN. We are hopeful that all key roles can be filled and hope to be appointing new trustees at the end of May.

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## Schools Eco Workshops

Scott Gudrich's series of primary school Eco Workshops on Carbon and Water have been going down a storm with staff and pupils alike. So far he has run 6 workshops to a total audience of 200 pupils. See below for some samples of the amazing artworks the pupils have produced in Rowledge and Chawton.

With thanks to Councillor Suzie Burns for the grant that has made this possible.





Alton Sustainable Eating has just completed a series of workshops, funded by an EHDC councillor grant from Warren Moore, on increasing the ratio of plant-based foods in our diets.

We are now starting on Phase 2 of our project, funded by the Transition Together Network, and will be looking for new ways to engage with people locally about the planetary, environmental and health benefits of a more plant-based diet.

Get in touch to find out more or to organise a speaker. [altonclimatenetwork@gmail.com](mailto:altonclimatenetwork@gmail.com)

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## Good News and Ideas

Since lockdown many people have expressed concerns about the huge rise in online ordering and all the extra emissions from the courier miles driven to deliver these items, especially the last mile from distribution centre to doorstep.

**Zedify** is a company tackling this problem in cities, using their [parcel consolidation system](#) to transfer our items to electric cargo bikes for that "last mile".

It will be a long time before anything like this comes to Alton but it is good to know that city air is getting cleaner all the time with initiatives like these.

Look out for their distinctive livery in Brighton, Bristol, Cambridge, Edinburgh, Glasgow, London, Manchester, Norwich & Plymouth.

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## Dates for your diary

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### ACAN's Monthly Litter Pick

***The next litter pick will be on Thu 2nd May from 10am - 12 noon***

Meet at the Football 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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# THE WHY, WHAT & HOW OF NET ZERO

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May 7.00pm  
Alton Community Centre



## Jon Saltmarsh

**Chief Technology Officer, Energy Systems Catapult**

*Energy Systems Catapult is an independent research & technology organisation, with the mission of accelerating Net Zero energy innovation*

Plus East Hants District Councillor Rob Mocatta and Alton Town (& EHDC) Councillor Barbara Tansey on their new climate change strategies and plans.

**Light refreshments and bar  
All welcome**



## Alton Community Share

**May sessions Sat 11th & 25th**

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

## ALFI Seedling Swap &

## Spring Garden Fair

Sat 11th May 10am - 2pm

Alton Public Gardens, GU34 1JL



ALFI will be under the large white gazebo in the Park, as part of the Town Council's [Spring Garden Fayre](#).

Swap your surplus seedlings and plants or pick some up for a small donation. There will be a chance to socialise and share tips or seek advice.

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## Bishop's Sutton Bioblitz

Saturday 11th May 1-5pm

Village Hall, Bishop's Sutton, nr Alresford, SO24 0AL

Have fun and learn about wildlife in this Hampshire village by a chalk stream. Join our \*FREE\* community day to discover as many kinds of plants and animals as we can!

There will be lots of things to get involved with on the day. Each will inform and inspire you as you get to know more about local wildlife. You can [book our expert-led Activities here](#), or just drop in on the day for wildlife challenges and self-guided walks. No pre-knowledge required - experts and enthusiasts on hand – just bring your curiosity! (and a smartphone if you have one). It's all free!

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## Energise South Downs Workshop

*Our Future Energy Landscapes*

*Wed 15th May 7pm - 9:30pm*

*Alton Community Centre GU34 1HN*

Join our local renewable energy non-profit organisation Energise South Downs for an exciting workshop in Alton exploring how we can power our communities using locally generated renewable energy sources.

**Energise South Downs**, supported by **East Hampshire District Council** and the **South Downs National Park Authority** are hosting a roadshow of workshops to discover the types and scale of renewable energy that could meet the needs of local people within their areas. Drawing on data and research we explore what might be feasible and create space for an informed, balanced conversation about what communities feel is acceptable.

See <https://esd.energy/events> for more information and to book a free place

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# *Conserving Hampshire's Swifts*

A talk by Catharine Gale, Trustee Hampshire Swifts


Find out all about swifts,  
what the charity Hampshire Swifts is doing  
to address their decline,  
and what you can do to help them!

Swifts are magical in the manner  
of all things that exist just a little  
beyond understanding.  
-Helen Macdonald, "The Mysterious Life  
of Birds Who Never Come Down"

Wednesday, May 22nd  
7:30 - 9pm

Alton Community Centre

**FREE!**

Hampshire Swifts  ACAN's Eco Streets project has provided  
12 swift boxes to houses in different parts  
of Alton to increase nesting possibilities for swifts.

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## Next Session Sat 25th May

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

**25th May, 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.*

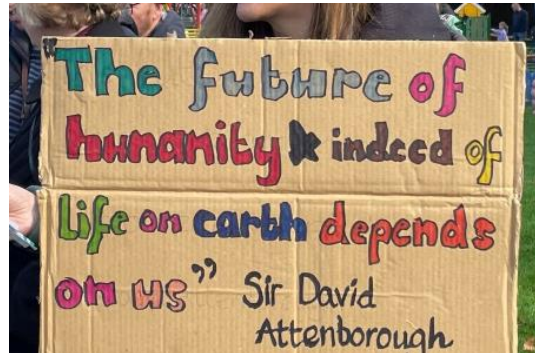
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## Restore Nature Now

### Sat 22nd Jun

### Central London

This may be the biggest march yet as environmentalists from many different environmental organisations descend on London in their masses to demand better safeguards for our beleaguered natural world.



***Marchers will be demanding UK politicians show strong domestic and global nature and climate leadership by:***

1. Giving a pay-rise to farmers for protecting nature
2. Making polluters pay
3. Making more space for nature
4. Enshrining a right to a healthy environment in law
5. Ensuring fair and effective climate action

So dust off your banners and join a contingent from ACAN. Do let us know if you would like to travel with us on [altonclimatenetwork@gmail.com](mailto:altonclimatenetwork@gmail.com)

See the [Restore Nature Now](#) website for more details

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# Alton Green Homes Fair

**Saturday  
29 June  
11am - 3pm  
Free entry**

**Alton  
Assembly  
Rooms  
High St  
GU34 1BA**

**Solar  
Panels  
Heat Pumps  
Insulation**

**Reduce  
your home's  
energy use &  
carbon  
impact**

**Local Installers  
Carbon Calculator House  
See a working Heat Pump  
Food by Jo's Plant Kitchen  
Meet Green Homeowners  
& Energy Champions  
Talks by Experts**


 A member of Alton Climate Action Network (ACAN)  
 We are grateful for funding from  **ALTON** Town Council  **EAST HAMPSHIRE** DISTRICT COUNCIL


**Energy Alton**

A not-for-profit community interest company run by local volunteers  
[energyalton.org.uk](http://energyalton.org.uk)



## 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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