



Welcome to August's Newsletter!

Poetry from Young ACAN, an inspiring video on Gumbi Permaculture Project and New Opportunities

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Diary Dates

Saturday 8th August 2–4 pm: Alton Community Share

Featuring a new collection of toys, puzzles, games and more, with lots for children (and parents) of all ages. A fun and friendly initiative to support local families and entertain children whilst also making excellent use of available resources and reducing waste. All loans are free of charge. Held at St Lawrence Parish Centre. Powered by the community for the community.

Saturday 22nd August at 10:30am: ALFI Working Party at Vicarage Plot

Please join ALFI's next working party at The Vicarage, Church Street, Alton. We will have a general tidy up of the fruit beds and trees.

Saturday 5th September 10-11 am: AVLAN's invertebrate sampling

Fancy kick-sampling for invertebrates, including cased caddis, freshwater shrimp and mayfly larvae? Or, if you'd rather keep your feet dry, then just come along and see what

has been caught! Families welcome. Fun, interesting and educational! Meet in Flood Meadows, near the wooden bridge (with the owl and otter). See you there!

Saturday 19th September 10:30 am–12:30 pm: Alton Repair Café

Recycle and repair, don't replace! Bring along your cherished items and get them repaired. Free but donations are welcome. Held at Alton Assembly Rooms on the third Saturday of each month.

Saturday 10th October: 10:30am-1:30pm ALFI Harvest Feast

Join us at the Alton Methodist Church Hall for hot soup, tea/coffee and cake.

Saturday 10th October: 10am-midday The Alton Society Autumn Litter Pick

Meet at the Alton Assembly Rooms and join the community to help clean up our town. All equipment provided.

Follow-up Ideas from the People's Emergency Briefing

The screening of the [People's Emergency Briefing](#) film on climate and nature was ACAN's biggest ever event. We issued over two hundred tickets, which left Alton College's Martin Read Hall very full indeed! About one hundred people stayed on for an hour of very animated discussion in groups, out on the college green. Many ideas for actions came out of the post screening discussion, all aimed at addressing the nature and climate emergency that we face. Below is a summary of progress so far:

Community farm - The most popular was a community farm and a small team has emerged to take this further. We have already looked at a possible plot here in Alton, although it does not meet all the required criteria for a successful and sustainable community venture.

A group recently visited Farnham Community Farm in Runfold, to see what they are doing and hear about their history. This was very inspiring and made it clear that there are many factors that help to make a project like this a success, but by far the most important is the people. We have also been looking at a business plan drawn up by a group in Wiltshire for their community farm which has helped us to organise our thoughts and expectations and, of course, the CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) team have offered their help too.

On Thursday 30th July we started the important step of deciding on a "Vision" of what we want to achieve from our Community Farm. The outcome of this will dictate our next steps,

Greening car parks – EHDC Councillor Emily Young is helping to progress the two ideas so far proposed.

- Extending the green area in the Bank Car Park – an idea originally proposed some years ago by the Alton Society is now being redrawn to be resubmitted to the council.
- Plans to replace the covered walkway in the car park at the back of Iceland are also being considered.

Carbon literacy training - A small group is at the early stages of exploring what is available and what might be suitable for rolling out here in Alton.

Transport - There is an interest in car sharing, carpooling and car clubs.

Regular film screenings and talks - The ACAN committee is considering future events and hope to be able to screen “How to live on Earth” in the new year. They will make decisions about the type and frequency of future events based on the popularity of this film screening. The film “Wilding” about the Knepp Estate in Sussex was shown recently to a large audience and followed by a discussion. This suggests there is an appetite for this sort of awareness raising.

There is plenty here to work on and support making a real difference to our town and local area. Do email altonclimatenetwork@gmail.com or use the Join in page on our web site if you would like to get involved.

The New ACAN Strategy is Here. Get Involved!

ACAN recently updated its new strategy to encourage a step change in public understanding and enthusiasm for the benefits of living climate and nature-friendly lives. Please visit the [strategy page](#) of the ACAN website to learn more about our strategy, priorities and values.

We invite you to get involved in taking positive community action, reducing our impact on the planet and restoring the natural environment - there are also many opportunities across our affiliated network, on a specific project or by joining our friendly management committee.

Visit <https://altonclimatenetwork.org.uk/acan-strategy/>

Volunteer Opening: Use Your Finance Skills for Good as ACAN's Bookkeeper

Do you have bookkeeping experience and 30 to 60 minutes to spare each week? You can help ACAN and our wonderful volunteer groups continue to thrive—all from your own home, in your own time.

ACAN provides a vital banking service for its groups by paying invoices and tracking grant expenditure. This role is highly important but not onerous. Our long-established,

spreadsheet-based system works well and the overall volume of transactions is small. You will also have ongoing support from the ACAN Treasurer.

Ready to use your skills for good? Please get in touch with us for a chat about this vital role by emailing altonclimatenetwork@gmail.com.

Closing date for applications: 11th September 2026

Saving Lives in Malawi: Visit to ACAN-Sponsored Permaculture Community

Watch this heartwarming video to follow Jenny Griffiths as she travels to Gumbi, Malawi to visit the Permaculture Community Training Centre (PCTC) sponsored by ACAN. PCTC is driving transformation across **22 villages** by equipping **525 cooperative farmers** with sustainable agriculture skills.

The video showcases how sustainable training empowers local communities through:

- **Crop diversity** to improve food security.
- **Organic agricultural methods** to protect soil health.
- **Water-retentive farming** to combat drought.
- **Compost-making techniques** for natural fertilization.

Watch the 6-minute inspiring video on the ACAN YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VtNc8vR5FfE&t=2s> or visit the ACAN website <https://altonclimatenetwork.org.uk/a-short-video-saving-lives-in-malawi/>



Poetry with Purpose: Young ACAN Announces Competition Winners

This year, participating Young ACAN Partnership schools plus Alton College and Bushy Leaze Nursery have been taking part in a project called '**Eating for our Planet**'. At the heart of the project was the annual schools' conference in January when 100 children came together to learn how to eat healthily for themselves and the planet.

Partnership members have also been involved in other food-related projects in their own settings, including a whole-school food day. One of the food day activities was to enter the Young ACAN Eating for our Planet Poetry Competition. Young ACAN leads, Emma Jones and Scott Gudrich had the hard task of judging the competition and are delighted to announce the winners:

Huge congratulations to our winners, who each received a certificate and a Goldfinches Book voucher. Special thanks to our sponsor Milk Club, for supporting this competition.

Read the inspiring winning poems below!

Food is Really Good for You

By Rune – Binsted CE Primary School

Food is really good for you.
Oranges make you energetic and make you go boom!
On our plate is something yummy.
Don't deny it if you haven't tried it.
Wonderful watermelon
Appetising apples
Sour lemons
Tasty turnips
Eating food.

Waste Not Want Not

By Lilja – Selborne CE Primary School

Why waste food when you could stew an amazing soup to eat.
It may be a day old but it is still nice to eat.
Or try a banana that is bruised for no matter how it looks,
It's sure to taste just the same as any banana would.
So next time you see a fruit or a vegetable that is dented or bruised,
Why not try it and think about those who have no food,
Who would gladly eat your bruised and dented food that you despise and throw away.
Don't waste good food, for in many years to come,
There may be wars over that food that has been thrown in the bin.

So next time you don't want to eat your passion fruit or kiwi,
Why don't you try it. It may be great!

Wondrous Veggies

By Amberly – St Mary's Bentworth CE Primary School

Wondrous veggies
Peas, suede and mushrooms,
Deliciously fresh,
For us to consume.
Yummy courgettes,
And lettuces too.
Sweetcorn and onions,
Brought here to you.
Scrumptious fruits,
How yummy and sweet.
Strawberries and apples
For us all to eat.
Look after our planet,
And we want you to listen.
When you eat healthily,
You help lower carbon emissions.

Eating for our Planet

By Maisie – Andrew's Endowed CE Primary School

If we want to help our planet,
There's something we can do.
It starts with what's upon our plate,
At breakfast, lunch and tea too.
Crunchy carrots, juicy pears,
Bright green broccoli trees.
Colourful peppers, beans and peas,
Swaying in the breeze.
Eating food that's grown nearby,
Helps the Earth to breathe.
Less pollution in the air,
Healthier land beneath.
We can waste a little less.
Save leftovers for tomorrow.
Because when food is thrown away,
It adds to nature's sorrow.
Maybe try one meat-free day,

Give veggies time to shine.
Tasty meals can still be fun,
And help our world feel fine.
So every bite is powerful.
Every choice we make.
Eating for our planet
Is a change for goodness' sake.



Volunteer with ACAN

Here at 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 and let us know what you would like to do

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](#)
