



Alton Climate Action & Network Groups Update October 2020



Website: altonclimatenetwork.org.uk Email: altonclimatenetwork@gmail.com Facebook: [@AltonClimate](https://www.facebook.com/AltonClimate)

Who would have thought we would still be operating under restrictions 6 months on?
Happily our intrepid volunteers are still able to carry on bringing friendship and support as well as food and activities to the community in both The Community Cupboard and The Community Share.

For more about what else we've been up to do take a look at the news below.

And remember if you want to get involved in any of the groups or have ideas of your own about what we can do just drop us an email at altonclimatenetwork@gmail.com we'd love to hear from you.

News from our groups:

Alton Repair Cafe

Cycle Alton

Action on Plastics

Alton & Villages Local Action for Nature

Alton Community Hub Film Screenings



Alton Repair Café is back!

We held two successful open-air sessions in August and September in the marquee in the Public Gardens as part of the Community Markets organised by the Town Council. Having tested our Covid precautions and processes at the August session, we expanded the number of repairers in September and enjoyed the opportunity to complete a good number of repairs, including several on items of personal and family importance.

It was a joy to have a sense of normality again, albeit with all the measures and restrictions in place, as part of the community, saving waste and reducing carbon emissions by avoiding new purchases. Before Christmas, we are holding two more special sessions, one on **Saturday 24th October 11.00 – 13.30** in the **Community Centre**. We shall be in the spacious main hall with our repairers well-spaced around the walls leaving plenty of empty space in the centre, and with reception in a separate adjacent room. The second session is on **Saturday 21st November 10.00 – 13.00** in the Tyndale Room and Café Area at The Maltings Centre, again offering plenty of space.

We are currently offering repairs to small items of: clothes and textiles, mechanical repairs, small electrical, electronics and bikes.

Do get in touch if you would like to contribute to the development of the circular economy by joining our friendly repair team. It's good fun and very rewarding. email altonclimatenetwork@gmail.com



A Campaigning Voice for Alton's Cyclists

As you know from the last ACAN newsletter Cycle Alton conducted a consultation of businesses in the Town Centre for views on 3 options for reduced traffic in the High Street. The findings were presented to Alton Town Council (ATC). It was encouraging that 76% of respondents were in favour of trialling one of the 3 options, and 83% of members of the public were in favour of the same. ATC then started a consultation for the Regeneration of the Town Centre at the Open Air Market on 12th September. Any thoughts, suggestions, etc can still be emailed to townclerk@alton.gov.uk.

We were delighted to be asked by ATC to suggest locations for 15 Cycle Rack Planters and 2 more Cycle Repair Pods, which you will now see dotted about the Town Centre. See photo below.

Meanwhile we were asked for our input to a new map of Alton's cycling and walking infrastructure and this is destined to be included on the My Journey Hampshire Active Alton webpage. Here's the link to that page. <https://myjourneyhampshire.com/cycle/active-alton/cycling-in-alton/>
Do have a look.



Plastic Waste Group

This is a very new group with several projects getting under way! The first is "Plastic Patrols" in which we go in groups of 6 for walks in the local countryside with litter pickers kindly provided by the Town Council. We collect plastic, cans and bottles and general waste in different coloured bags and weigh the bags when we have finished. We have had several of these walks already and are hoping to continue them a couple of times a month throughout the year.

We have also started to compile a Green Directory which will list recycling points and sources of eco-products in Alton and beyond. This will include refill opportunities and where to buy items such as bamboo toothbrushes. In another project we asked questions of the council about how they will handle pots, tubs and trays should the proposed legislation making kerbside collection of these items mandatory become law. Decisions are yet to be made and we await the outcome with interest.



We are looking at Surfers Against Sewage's plastic free projects and considering the possibility of joining one of their schemes.

Please contact us if you would like to join in, anything from occasional walks to helping with new ideas, the directory or social media would be much appreciated!

Alton & Villages Local Action for Nature (AVLAN)

You may remember our intention to plant a pollinator friendly flower bed at All Saints Church to commemorate the 300th birthday of Gilbert White the well know naturalist who was possibly the first to study how plants coped with variations in the arrival time of the different seasons. It has been much delayed but on Sunday 18th six of us were finally able to complete the planting with advice and plants from the head gardener at the Gilbert White Museum in Selborne, plus plants donated by members of AVLAN and ALFI, all of which Gilbert White would have been familiar with.



Alton & Villages Local Action for Nature (AVLAN)

Another long delayed activity finally went ahead on Saturday 17th October as 6 suitably distanced volunteers finally got to do part 2 of the Riversearch training, which will set them up to test the health of the River Wey in Alton. They will be doing this on a monthly basis and if you want to find out more do join us for Glen Skelton's online talk.



Wednesday 4 November 7.30 pm

Protecting the River Wey in Alton

Talk and discussion

Glen Skelton, Surrey Wildlife Trust



Zoom event – please email altonclimatenetwork@gmail.com for the link.



Glen Skelton is the Wetland Landscapes Officer at Surrey Wildlife Trust. For the past 7 years he has been supporting local communities and groups across the River Wey catchment to monitor the health of their local river and apply practical measures to restore degraded stretches. In this talk he will look in detail at the River Wey as it runs through Alton, why this is a particularly important stretch of river and

highlight some of the issues and opportunities for restoring our river to something we can be proud of.

Spring-fed rivers like the Wey in Alton are seriously threatened by climate change. Glen will suggest what we all can all do to protect this magnificent resource.

**Organised by Alton & Villages Local Action for Nature [AVLAN] and
Alton Climate Action & Network**

Photo: Local AVLAN volunteers with Glen Skelton (before lockdown), during a Riversearch training session

Outreach

We had always intended to hold film screenings at the hub and have finally made the decision to go online with this activity too.

Our first is the wonderful documentary 2040 - see details below.

It is free to view but you will need to go to the eventbrite site to book your place and ensure you receive the link to watch the film on Monday 16th November at 7pm.