



Highlights of our Second Year

Extraordinary progress in an extraordinary year

2020

Jan - March

- **ACAN website** altonclimatenetwork.org.uk launched.
- **ACAN's Community Hub** at Alton Community Centre planned for launch at Easter and substantial funds raised - *postponed to 2021 due to Covid-19 pandemic.*
- **Promotional ACAN Banner** placed in *The Alton Herald*.
- **Alton Eco-Fair** in Public Gardens planned with Town Council for July - *postponed to 2021 due to Covid-19 pandemic.*

May

- **ACAN registered with the Charity Commission** as a **Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)**
- **Cycle Alton** launched - to give Alton's cycling groups and individuals a campaigning voice for safer cycling and better cycling infrastructure

June

- **Community Share** launched with donations "by the community for the community" to save money, reduce waste and re-use preloved stuff.

July

- **ACAN's 2020 Vision** published - "*Building Back Better: What we should keep from the lockdown experience*" - a major report following public consultation in May and an online participative event in June.
- **Permaculture Group** formed to promote regenerative agriculture.
- **Tempestries** - wall-hangings, colour-coded to illustrate the rise in local temperature between 1960 and 2017, hand-knitted and displayed at the Community Centre.

August

- Support extended to young people taking part in **National Citizen Service** - who raised money for ACAN.
- **Local Food Directory** published by **Alton Local Food Initiative (ALFI)**
 - As a booklet and on the ACAN and ALFI websites.

September

- **Action on Plastics** launched:
 - **Plastic patrols** initiated - collecting waste in the local countryside.
 - **Green Directory** started - listing local recycling points plus sources of eco-products and refills.

- **Energy Alton** launched two new initiatives
 - **Clean Heat Alton Project** [CHAP] - to provide guidance on alternatives to gas and oil, with funding from Alton Town Council and Community Energy South.
 - New **Community Renewables Group** formed to promote solar power
- After a request by **Cycle Alton**, Alton Town Council provided new cycle stands and cycle repair pods.

October

- Detailed comment submitted by **Energy Alton** on the **Incinerator proposal** for the redundant Veolia site (near Froyle).
- **All Saints Flower Bed** planted - to mark the **Gilbert White 300th anniversary** - a partnership project between the *Gilbert White Museum*, the *Parish of the Resurrection/Eco-Church*, and *AVLAN/ACAN*.

November

- First **ACAN Schools Newsletter** sent out to 17 schools.
- Alton Community Hub **film screenings** launched online with “2040” - will continue in 2021.
- Submission to HCC by **AVLAN** on verge-cutting policy aiming to prevent loss of wildflowers next year.

December

- **Yuletide Fair** - promotional stall to be mounted, restrictions permitting. *Tempestries* (see July, above) to be a feature of the display.

All year

- **Links** further developed with:
 - **MP Damian Hinds** including dialogue on a **green economic recovery**
 - **Alton Town Council** - membership of the **Climate Strategy Group**
 - **East Hants District Council** - support and impetus towards the development of their **Climate Strategy**
 - **Hampshire County Council** - an ACAN Trustee addressed the August Council meeting which approved their **Climate Strategy**
 - **Other groups in Hampshire**, including **PeCAN** (Petersfield)
- Active membership of **Hampshire Climate Action Network**
- **Alton Repair Cafe** continued successfully in reduced form during Covid-19 restrictions - under awning in Alton Public Gardens, then in Alton Community Centre main hall.
- **Alton Community Cupboard** continued 5 days/week delivering food to 80-100 families during lockdown, then by collection at the Community Centre
- **Schools Eco-Hero competition** held for children aged 4 - 11 - to design an *Eco-Hero*, a person who does simple acts to help our planet

- **Gumbi Education Fund** adopted as ACAN's charity.
 - **Fundraising** to send young people for training in **permaculture** (sustainable/climatically-resilient agriculture) from the impoverished villages of Gumbi, Malawi.
 - **Open Zoom meeting**, featuring Luwayo Biswick, live from *The Permaculture Paradise Institute*, Malawi.
 - **Film - A Vision of Paradise** made and published on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/WXLYMq6aThk>
- **Local Media profile**: Frequent coverage of our work achieved in *Round and About*, *The Alton Herald* and through *Wey Valley Radio* interviews.
- **The River Wey in Alton**
 - **Riversearch Riverfly** water quality monitoring group established pre-lockdown.
 - **"Protecting the River Wey in Alton"** launched with the Town Council, following online public meeting in November addressed by Glen Skelton, Wetland Landscapes Officer at Surrey Wildlife Trust.

Looking forward to 2021

"To remain in line with the Paris Agreement, we must reduce our emissions up to 5 times quicker over the next ten years than we have over the past twenty."

Alok Sharma, Sec of State for BEIS and President, COP26 (November 2020)

Continuing and developing this year's activities AND

- **Supporting preparations for COP26** (in Glasgow in November) in every way we can.
- **East Hants Climate Forum** - working with our MP on a local event ahead of COP26.
- **Alton Local Climate Action** - a new outreach initiative to engage local community influencers, groups and households in action and behaviour change at ward level and below (250-800 households)
- **Philosophy for Communities (P4C)** - aiming to set up reflective discussion on topical issues by small, preferably diverse, groups of citizens.
- **Gilbert White Museum** - strengthening our partnership on climate change and biodiversity education.
- Encouraging **local schools** to go for **Plastic free status**, starting at the Butts.
- **Green Open Homes event** (virtual) to be organised by **Energy Alton**.