



Welcome to May's Newsletter

May is here and there's lots happening in Alton, including the Spring Garden Fayre in the Public Gardens. And don't forget to grab your tickets for the second screening of the *'People's Emergency Briefing'* before they're all gone!

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Diary Dates

Thursday 7th May 10am: ACAN litter pick

Make an immediate and obvious difference to the appearance of our town by joining an ACAN litter Pick! Please bring your own protective gloves but litter pickers and bags will be provided. In April, a total of just over 16kg was collected, with prize finds including a bent water bottle carrier for a bike, a bike pedal, a battered hub cap and used lottery tickets!

For more details, including where to meet, click here: [Litter pick details](#)

Saturday 9th May 2–4pm: 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.

Wednesday 13th May 6-8pm: Jon Alexander at Goldfinch Books

Join author Jon Alexander for an evening talk on citizenship and democracy. Jon is the author of the award-winning *'Citizens: Why the Key to Fixing Everything Is All of Us'* so it promises to be a very thought-provoking talk.

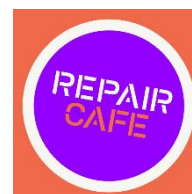
[More details here](#)

Saturday 16th May 10am–3 pm: Spring Garden Fayre

Held in Alton Public Gardens, this year's Fayre features singing, dancing and many nature-themed activities. There's also an ALFI seedling swap and a Cycle Alton stall. Please do come along and join in the fun!

Saturday 16th May 10:30am–12:30pm: 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 23rd May 12-1pm: Window Shopping Walk

Where we shop and what we buy can make a big difference to our carbon footprint. Join Scott Gudrich, ACAN's Eco-Streets leader, for an hour's walk and chat along Alton's High Street discussing how small changes to our habits can make a big difference. Meet at Alton Community Centre.

Saturday 30th May: 10-11am: 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!

Tuesday 16th June: 7-8:30pm: Northern Wey Community Trust: Talk about the Wey Walk

An opportunity to learn all about the story of Alton's Weyside Walk. This event is organised by Ginny Boxall for the Northern Wey Community Trust and takes place at Alton Assembly Rooms.

Friday 19th June, doors open 7 pm: Screening of 'People's Emergency Briefing'

Do come along and watch this incredible film. Held in the Martin Read Hall at Alton College. For more information and to book free tickets, click here: [more details here](#)

See feature below for further details.

And until the end of June...

Young ACAN is currently one of the three charities sponsored by the 'Waitrose Community Matters' green token scheme. If you shop in Waitrose during the next couple of months and want to support the brilliant work that Young ACAN do, then don't forget to collect a token and pop it in the right place!

News from Alton Community Cupboard

It's estimated that one third of all food in the UK is thrown away each year. And it's not just the food itself that is wasted: it's the land used to grow this food, and the energy used to transport it around our planet. A lot of this wasted food ends up in landfill where it slowly decomposes and releases climate-heating gases, including methane.

Alton Community Cupboard was founded in 2019 with the aim of reducing local food waste.

Since then, a growing team of volunteers (now exceeding 40 in total) has undertaken a huge variety of daily tasks to achieve this goal. From collecting surplus supermarket food, and unloading, sorting and serving customers to sweeping, mopping and disinfecting surfaces, these hard-working heroes have been very busy.

In fact, figures for 2025 demonstrate a massive 100,177 kilograms of food was saved from being thrown away, more than doubling the figure of three years ago. It's about the same weight as thirty Asian elephants or enough food to fill nearly two hundred industrial sized wheelie bins!

In more practical terms, 100 tonnes of saved food waste represents approximately 133,000 meals or an entire year's worth of food for 330 individuals.



Binsted School Water Challenge

Binsted School are taking part in a water saving challenge set them by South East Water. The 'Friends of Binsted School' are collecting photos of some of the things the children are doing to save water at home and other members of the community are also invited to send in pictures of what they are doing to reduce water use. The project is designed to teach people what can be done on a day-to-day basis to reduce water usage and highlight the reasons that we need to.

If the water usage in Binsted is reduced by 5% between April and September, then South East Water will award the school £5,000!

More information is available here: [Binsted School Water Challenge](#)

Community Screening of 'The People's Emergency Briefing'

A second chance to catch the People's Emergency Briefing – an eye-opening film bringing together nine leading UK scientists and experts with the latest evidence on the climate and nature crisis in the UK and why it matters for things like extreme weather, food security, health and cost of living.

The film is based on the National Emergency Briefing in Westminster (featured by ITV, Channel 4 and The Times) with appearances from Chris Packham, Deborah Meaden, Jennifer Saunders, Konnie Huq and Adam Buxton, as well as a range of voices from across the UK.

After the screening there will be a short open discussion about what it means for our community and what we can do locally, facilitated by ACAN.

The screening is taking place in the Martin Read Hall at Alton College. Doors open at 7pm with the film starting at 7:30pm. Seats are free but limited so please book in advance using this link: [more details here](#)

No Mow May

And finally, this time of year brings with it No Mow May. This brilliant campaign was started by Plantlife with the aim of encouraging people all across the UK to put away their mowers and letting patches of their lawns grow longer. It's a fantastic idea which allows many plants to produce flowers that in turn provide insects with valuable nectar and pollen.

But it's not just about May.

Letting your lawn – or just part of your lawn – grow longer for a month does help, but if you want to make a real difference, then leave it completely alone until late summer. This allows a larger range of plants to flower and set seed and provides valuable habitat for all sorts of creatures. You might be surprised at what puts in an appearance.



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.