



Alton Climate Action & Network

Lockdown Update Easter 2020

We hope you're keeping safe and well in these strange times. We are thinking of you and are immensely grateful to the Community Cupboard team as they continue to distribute surplus food to those who need it and as the Covid-19 Mutual Aid group get set up to do shopping runs etc for those who cannot get out.

Sadly this was not the news we were expecting to share with you this April when we had been hoping to launch our Community Hub at the Community Centre with a whole range of activities for all the people of Alton and local villages to join in.

Instead over the last couple of weeks we have been brushing up our IT skills and getting familiar with Zoom software and are now in a position to offer at least some of our anticipated hub activities on-line. So to go back to our list:

On offer NOW:

Gardening for wildlife surgery – please send your questions to Nancy via altonclimatenetwork@gmail.com and she will get back to you.

Home energy doctor – [Energy Alton](http://EnergyAlton) are still offering free advice on energy issues – email energyalton@gmail.com or ring **07811 462 659**.

Support for those of us suffering from climate anxiety – if anyone would like a chat we could arrange group chats via Zoom to share worries and share tips for keeping up morale while we wait for this lockdown period to end. Email altonclimatenetwork@gmail.com if you would like to do this.

On offer SOON:

Conversations about climate change – we are hoping to get this going online in a similar way to a book club - people can ask to discuss different topics, we send out a reading list of links to online articles etc. a couple of weeks ahead of the meeting date (it won't be essential to read these) – we then hold a discussion online via Zoom.

Lobbying letter writing parties – we might consider doing this online when we get a bit nearer to the end of the lockdown period.

Screenings of environment and sustainability related films – we may send out recommendations for films that can be viewed free online.

Available later in the year:

School holiday activities for families – watch this space, who knows it may all be over by then

A refill station for laundry products

Arts & crafts / knit and natter

Outreach

The ACAN committee recently decided to support the Gumbi Education Fund with a project to educate some young people about how to grow food more sustainably. **John Vidal has met an American couple just outside Lilongwe, the capital of Malawi, who have set up the most extraordinary permaculture holding, growing hundreds of different crops. Here's a link to a piece John wrote about them two years ago:**

https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/entry/permaculture-food-sustainable-productive_n_5b8e3618e4b0162f47266755?ri18n=true.



We hope that ACAN's support will enable young people in the Gumbi villages to learn about permaculture as a way of mitigating some of the impact of climate change.

AVLAN – Alton & Villages Local Action for Nature

AVLAN have not been idle during the lockdown. There have been many interesting posts on their Facebook page and they have run a competition to choose a logo for the group.

6 designs were submitted and the winner with 56% of the votes cast was this lovely dandelion with butterfly:



Luckily the **Riversearch** training session was run on 7th March before the lockdown, allowing an enthusiastic bunch of volunteers to practice new skills.



Since then an excellent piece has been added to James Willis' Blog telling us a lot more about [Alton's precious river Wey](#)

Emma's Eco-hero competition

Talking of competitions - in collaboration with ACAN and ALFI, as well as with support from Ginny Boxall, Climate Champion for EHDC and young Frankie Morland singer and writer of 'World in Danger', Emma Jones has launched a competition for children aged between 4 and 11 years old to [design an Eco-Hero](https://altonclimatenetwork.org.uk/2020/04/08/design-an-eco-hero-competition/) – a person who does simple acts to help our planet. For more information about Emma's work on this see our website:

<https://altonclimatenetwork.org.uk/2020/04/08/design-an-eco-hero-competition/>

We are very much looking forward to seeing all the entries.



ALTON CLIMATE
ACTION & NETWORK

DESIGN AN ECO-HERO COMPETITION



Calling all Eco-Heroes – your planet needs you!

Children between the ages of 4 and 11 (YR-Y6) are invited to design their own Eco-Hero who can help to save the planet.

HOW TO ENTER

1. Get creative and design an Eco-Hero on a piece of A4 paper: The 'Eco-Hero' can be represented either as an original drawing, painting or even as a photograph, either of you dressed up as an Eco-Hero or a 3D object you have made of your hero (e.g. a Lego model or junk model)
2. Clearly label any special clothes, tools and powers. E.g. water bottle, litter picker
3. Write your name, school and class (YR-Y6) on the back.
4. Either return it to your school if your school had a special assembly or email it to: ecohero2020@gmail.com

PRIZES

Two categories: Foundation Stage/ KS1 and KS2

First Prizes: a selection of books about the environment, including signed copies of local Eco-Hero Frankie Morland's book – 'World in Danger'

Runners-Up: Signed copies of Frankie Morland's book 'World in Danger'



CLOSING DATE

When schools reopen after COVID-19.

Other things we can do during lockdown...

Swap to a renewables only energy supplier

If you haven't already done so you might want to think about changing your energy supplier to a renewables only company. See the following link to the Energy Alton website:

<http://energyalton.org.uk/energy-advice/energy-tips/renewable-energy/choosing-a-green-energy-tariff/examples-of-green-energy-suppliers/>

Change your bank account

Another thing that may have been on your “ToDo” list for a long time is moving your money out of a fossil fuel investing High Street bank into one of the more ethical options. Here are a couple of websites to visit to get you started:

<https://moralfibres.co.uk/best-ethical-banks/>

<https://www.gocompare.com/current-accounts/ethical-banking/>

Good news about future transport

In the middle of all the worries about Coronavirus a wonderful new government report has slipped out practically unnoticed: [Decarbonising Transport – Setting the Challenge](#)

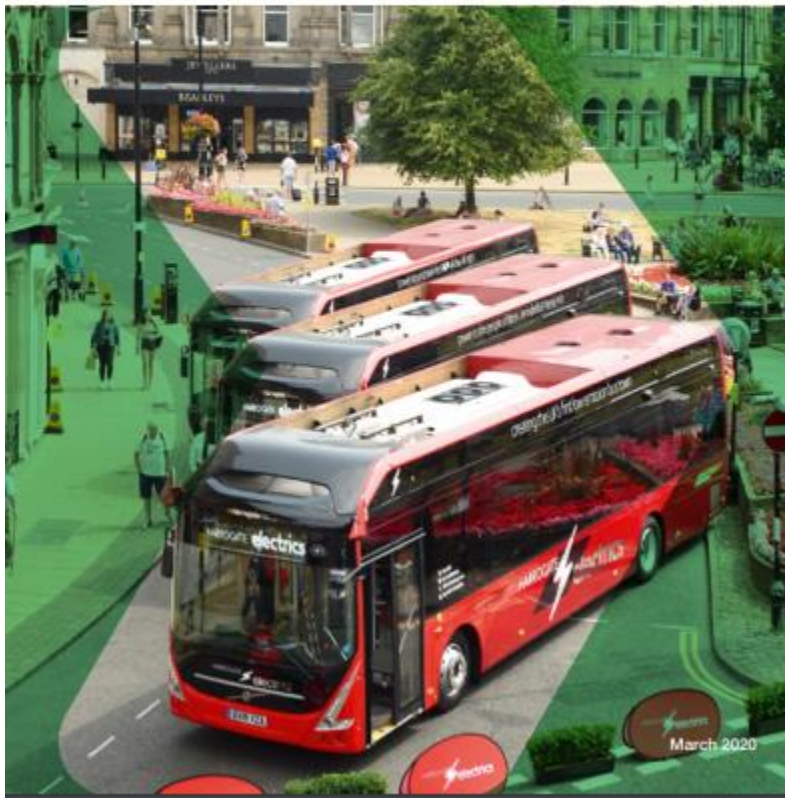


Decarbonising Transport Setting the Challenge

This has been issued by The Department for Transport courtesy of the Secretary of State for Transport Grant Shapps.

His introduction on pages 3 & 4 is well worth a look to get a flavour of what is proposed. There is a lot of good stuff here although the timescale is inevitably slower than we would like since the government is still aiming for 2050 not the 2030 target that most of us feel is necessary.

Maybe the reduction in pollution and greenhouse gases due to the lockdown will help to persuade people that tackling the climate crisis really is possible – watch this space.



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