

# GreenTEA 'Monthly Brew' 7.17

## GreenTEA News

**Rob Hopkins' book** - '21 Stories of Transition' lived up to expectation for the Book Discussion Group. Members were particularly impressed with the increased social cohesiveness engendered by imaginative projects in Transition groups all round the world! "Just like the wartime spirit". The book was compiled by Rob Hopkins for the COP21 Paris climate talks where, we imagine, it was inspirational!

**The Energy Group** - met on 4th July and welcomed the arrival of the information board for the Village Hall. Lucy and Sarah will keep the electricity generation information updated, with examples of what could be powered. Keep an eye open for its arrival on the front of the village hall. The group decided to continue with the thermal imaging (TI) programme, and to join again with the Food/Orchard and Waste groups for a joint GreenTEA festival on Sat Oct 14th, where homeowners may sign up for TI: <mailto:andyswarbs@gmail.com>

**Peace Orchard, second Working Group** - gathered on 2nd July at the Newlands Street site. Ray Evans reported: "We had a good few hours at Peace Oak, starting with a look around the wooded areas and the boundary with the new houses. An area was cleared and new compost bins constructed, using pallets sourced from the neighbouring building site. Jonathan Ferrier clarified the boundary extent around the compost area and up to the tennis courts." "We will not meet for an August work party." Ray added.

**Tubs in the Square** - These have been cared for beautifully for several years by Eleanor. She now wishes to hand over to another enthusiast. This would involve about four visits per year. A **volunteer** please - by reply.

**Inspirational film 'Demain'** ('Tomorrow') - don't forget that Ros has a DVD of this film. **Lasting two hours, it is good for individuals, families, businesses, town councils, MPs, alike.** If you would like to borrow it, simply reply to the Brew email.

## Local News

**BikeSafe** - have been extremely fortunate in receiving a donation of £70K from a most generous couple in the area. As a result, planning permission matters are now forging ahead in the hands of Edgars Planning Consultancy. The ecological survey has been completed, the full report to be available in the next 2-3 weeks. The summary report suggests there are no unexpected issues. It is hoped that an application for planning permission will be submitted by the end of this year. On another encouraging note, both new MPs, Layla Moran (Oxford West&Abingdon) and Robert Courts(Witney) mentioned the B4044 path at the Parliamentary 'Westminster Debate' on July 5th.

**Eynsham Planning Improvement Campaign (EPIC)** - a new group concerned with the lack of planning and consultation on the matter of new housing for Eynsham, and a "Garden Village", just over the A40. The latter would destroy a 'Site of European Importance for rare and vulnerable arable plants'; a flourishing organic farm with a higher biodiversity than in any other part of agricultural West Oxfordshire with an astonishing array of birds, insects and moths; the medieval remains of the village of Tilgarsley, and an aggregate recycling plant. This as well as causing further air pollution and carbon emissions along the A40. Sign-up: <http://eynsham.me.uk>

**New grants programmes from Oxfordshire Community Foundation** - OCF has changed the way they structure their grant-giving programme. There are now four distinct grants streams, with different scales and ambitions of the work that needs funding, ranging from small community groups to large collaborative projects. The next closing date for applications is 17 July 2017. You can find out more about the grants available [here](#).

**Sustainable Woodstock Community Orchard** - *15th, 22nd July, 9am to 12 noon, (Woodstock)*  
Join Sustainable Woodstock as they remove the tubes from their emerging Community Orchard. If you can spare an hour or so to help out, get in touch with <mailto:sustainablewoodstockuk@gmail.com> Entrance on A44 northbound just after leaving Woodstock, on left, just past 50mph sign.

## National News

**Community Energy** - is widespread, significant, economically effective and beneficial, but **the sector is at risk!** <https://communityenergyengland.org/> I recommend the 'executive summary first! (Community Energy England)

**FYI - BEIS Minister of State for Climate Change and Industry** - (strange bedfellows!) Claire Perry MP is in charge of the following: - climate change - carbon budgets - international climate change, including International Climate Fund - climate science and innovation- green finance - energy efficiency and heat, including fuel poverty

**A massive tidal park for Scotland** - trust the Scots to be sensible! The Scottish government has approved a 30-turbine tidal park to be built off the south-west coast of Islay. The tidal turbines will power around 18,000 homes! <https://sbnn.co.uk/2017/06/21/tidal-park-approval-will-create-32-jobs/> (Scottish Business News Network)

## International News

**AVAAZ taking President Trump to court** - over climate crimes! "When Trump pulled out of the Paris climate agreement, our community raised money for a group of awesome kids to sue the President for putting their future at risk. This groundbreaking legal case could force the US to act against climate change!"

**Prof. Myles Allen** of Oxford University's ECI said: "All the **Paris Agreement** actually commits countries to do, is to tell each other what they are going to do (about climate change). Countries can decide for themselves how they are going to address the problem, so it is very hard to see why America wants to leave." <https://storify.com/ecioxford/>



**China's floating solar farm** - is the biggest on earth! "The mammoth farm will produce enough energy to power 15,000 homes! We don't expect this farm to hold the record for too long though - China themselves have already got some even bigger farms in the pipeline." (10:10)

**A** residents recently ran solely on renewable energy for seven days in a row. It was a test to see whether the electricity grid could handle life without fossil fuels. Han Ti, vice general manager of the power company's verdict? "Clean energy is the ultimate way."

**Electric cars from zero to 2 million in 5 years!** - "In 2010 there were next to no electric cars on the world's roads. By 2016, the figure had grown to 2 million. And the surge is growing stronger every year - in 2016, sales grew 60% from the previous year. On current projections, electric cars, buses, trucks and vans could hold 30% of the world market by 2030". **Vroom!** (10:10)

**World population 16.5bn or 7.3bn in 2100?** - New UN figures say both possible - a difference of more than 100%! That difference is determined not by nature or destiny but by the choices we make now as a global community and as individuals – about how we **enable people to choose** smaller families and how we all exercise that choice. **Key** to this enablement, of course, is **our foreign aid** to underdeveloped countries!

**It's happening ... "Highest Temperature of All Time" - Iran is getting scorched!** Ahvaz hit 54°C last week, and it looks like climate change is once again to blame. With severe droughts in recent years as well, Iran is experiencing climate change more intensely than many other countries in the world. <https://www.globalcitizen.org>

**New Books 'Move Upstream: A Call to Solve Overpopulation'** by Karen Shragg. She challenges social and environmental activists to stop working on the effects i.e. 'downstream' and take the problem of overpopulation seriously at source, 'upstream'. She also provides compassionate ideas to solve the problem.

## GreenTEA Events

Aug 5th **GreenTEA Café** at The Emporium 32-34 Mill St., Eynsham OX29 4JS 10.30am-12noon  
Aug 15th Book discussion group, 16 Queen's Lane 8pm contact: <mailto:helenasamthar@gmail.com>

## Other Events

Jul 17th Green Drinks 'Cape of Good Hope' pub, 1 The Plain, Oxford OX4 1EA 6.30pm onwards.  
Jul 15th&22nd Sustainable Woodstock Community Orchard working party 9am-12noon Details above.  
Jul 26 'Bat Walk' Farmoor Reservoir car park at 9:00 pm – 11:30 pm  
Aug 5th&6th 'Broken Spoke' Bike workshop 42 Pembroke St., Oxford. Free! 10am-6pm

