

The Brew (January 2020)

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A Happy New Year to all our readers !!



## GreenTEA News

**MP's responses to our suggestions at the meeting on October 18th** - Our suggestions to Robert Courts were:

1. STOP subsidies for fossil fuels and use money for Renewable Energy Generation. Response - **none!**
2. Tax breaks and charging points for Electric Vehicles. Also tax air journeys. Response - **none!**
3. Garden Village to have local renewable energy generation with a local grid. Response - **none!**
4. Garden Village to have highest standards in building regulations, legally enforceable. Response- "*In 2019, government announced that it will introduce a Future Homes Standard by 2025 for new build homes with low-carbon heating, world-leading energy efficiency levels and the latest greentech.*"
5. Questioned as to why he backed the Heathrow Expansion Bill. Response - voluminous - "*While I understand you want to see people move away from flying, aviation must play its part in reaching net zero carbon emissions by 2050. To grant consent for development, Ministers would need to be satisfied that, with mitigation, the expansion scheme would comply with legal obligations. Heathrow will need to undertake a thorough assessment of the air quality impacts of its scheme, and bring forward an appropriate package of mitigations to demonstrate compliance, if approval is to be given. I also welcome that the Department for Transport has committed to work to step up its research, development and adoption of low and zero carbon aviation technology....*"

PS We were dismayed that the Conservative election leaflet did not contain a word about Climate Change!!

**Core Group decides** - to send letters to OCC and Government re: Action on declared "Climate Emergency".

**REMINDER** - Green TEA, along with many other local groups, will be at the Nature Recovery workshop tomorrow (Wednesday 15 January) at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall. Please come and share your ideas on how we can promote biodiversity and support nature within our Parish. See events below.

## Local News

**Sustainable Woodstock says** - "Reducing single-use plastics is one of the easier things for us to try in order to help combat the climate emergency" See [100 steps](#).

**Pruning Demonstration** - January 2nd saw a good start to the New Year with a very enlightening apple-pruning demonstration, at Long Mead Orchard, by Chris Lanczac of Waterperry Nursery. Useful messages from him: "all pruning Inspires further growth" and "do not prune stone-fruits (eg plum,peach) until after blossoming". [Further courses available at Waterperry](#).

**The City Council** - has revealed its [£19 million plan](#) to respond to the recommendations made by this summer's Citizens Assembly on Climate Change. The proposals in the new climate emergency budget include raising the energy efficiency of new homes and community buildings, cutting transport emissions, funding 400 new electric vehicle charging points, boosting renewable energy, expanding biodiversity and increasing public engagement with recycling. The Council will also commit to reaching net zero emissions in 2020!!

## National News

**Government faces calls to step up action on climate change** - [Poll shows 70 per cent back move to net-zero emissions by end of decade](#).

**Advisers urge PM to drive action on tackling climate crisis** - UK must get its "house in order" on tackling climate change as it prepares to host UN climate summit, [CCC warns](#).

**Anger as ministers delay net-zero carbon strategy** - Ministers under fire after revealing [2050 net-zero strategy will not be released until end of year](#).

**Paul Allen, author of 'Zero Carbon Britain'** - offers ['wicked' technology solutions to the climate emergency](#). "The trick is to identify synergies between investments in the changes needed to reach net zero, and investments to improve health and wellbeing, enhance biodiversity, create jobs, reduce poverty, stabilise our economy, and increase our resilience and ability to adapt to climate change." WOW!

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**Scottish homes to be made energy efficient at point of sale** - Scheme will impose [minimum energy standards](#) on homes to be put on sale.

**EU open to 'unprecedented' partnership with UK on climate** - [Brussels open to deep relationship](#) that covers more than just trade, new EC President says.

**Rowan Williams: Climate change 'largest challenge ever'** - The environmental crisis is the "[largest challenge ever to the human race](#)", the former Archbishop of Canterbury has said.

**Prince William launches ambitious 'Earthshot Prize'** - Invoking Nasa's missions to the Moon, the prince launches 'Earthshot Prize' to [spearhead action on climate change](#).

**Zero carbon power outstrips fossil fuels for first time** - UK hits historic milestone as [zero carbon electricity beats fossil fuels for first time](#) since Industrial Revolution.

**Ofgem to clip profits of private power monopolies** - [Regulator will cut back 30% profits](#) of UK's pipes and wires firms, sometimes accused of slowing low-carbon transition.

**Climate emergency 'has not led to action in Wales'** - Months after declaring a "climate emergency", Welsh Government [accused of continuing "business as usual"](#).

**Cuadrilla lobbies regulators to resurrect UK fracking** - [Shale gas group pushes government](#) on moratorium on controversial industry.

## International News

**Greta Thunberg** was selected as [Time magazine's 'Person of the Year'](#). She also edited December 30th's edition of the [Today programme](#) about climate change, which included an [interview with David Attenborough](#). Here she is [speaking at last month's COP25](#) UN climate conference, at which sadly [little progress was made](#).

**Chinese government researchers back cuts in coal generation** - [Analysis says](#) "nation must stop building new coal-fired power stations and close some existing ones now."

**Pope slams leaders on 'weak' response to climate change** - [Pope Francis accuses world leaders](#) of failing to listen to concerns of youngsters pushing for global climate action.

**Call for Glasgow summit to be free of fossil fuel lobbyists** - [Campaigners call for ban on lobbyists](#) from fossil fuel companies taking place at negotiating table during COP26.

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**Dutch court orders bigger cuts in emissions** - Highest court upholds ruling to bring about [emission cuts of 25% on 1990 levels by end of next year](#).

**Bloomberg releases plans to cut emissions by 50% in 10 years** - Democratic presidential candidate Michael Bloomberg unveils plan including [eliminating all coal power plants](#).

**Amid crippling power cuts, Zimbabwe turns to solar energy** - [Inadequate electricity supply](#) sees Zimbabweans use solar energy to power lights.

**Germany cuts rail fares in response to climate crisis** - Fares for long-distance rail travel in Germany drop as [climate measures aim to make rail travel more attractive](#).

**Australian Labour MP urges war-like national mobilisation** - [Labour MP warns that a failure to act on climate change](#) would be the 'most serious dereliction of duty in our history.'

## **New Book**

['Falter' by Bill McKibben](#) "A compelling call for change that would benefit from stronger sources." (Kirkus Reviews Issue: Feb. 2019). "He combines fear of bad outcomes with hope for good outcomes." (Jared Diamond NYT 4.19). "This is Bill McKibben at his glorious best. Wise and warning, with everything on the line. Do not miss it" (Naomi Klein).

## **GreenTEA Events**

January 15: Nature Recovery Workshop with Eynsham Society 7.30 - 9.30 pm Eynsham Village Hall: [flier available](#)

February 1: **GreenTEA Café** at The Market Garden, 32-34 Mill St., Eynsham. 10.30 am - 12 noon

February 3: Discussion group - 'A Holistic Treatise on Overpopulation' by Michiel Stofferis - [contact Helena for details](#).

## **Other Events**

February 5: [Hub Project 'The RISE Project'](#) Oxford Martin School 11 am-12.30 am

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