

The Brew (October 2020)

[View this email in your browser](#)



GreenTEA News

Festival trail - our annual autumn event scheduled for Sunday 4 October sadly had to be postponed because of relentless rain. One event only was salvaged; an on-site, socially distanced report on two eco-houses being built in the grounds of No.4 Oxford Road. Mike Nightingale, the developer and co-designer says: "The new dwellings have high eco-performance, achieving the following: Densification of existing land within the village; Low embedded energy in their construction by using renewable materials; Timber framing and envelope (cedar roof shingles, larch cladding); Ability to generate energy and reduce consumption through solar panels; Ability to supply energy through air-source heat pumps; Reduced heat loss through high thermal insulation and air tightness; Orientation/controlled passive solar gain; Abundant greenery, including a meadow-grass green roof; Minimal off-site removal of materials through site landscaping." (Thanks to Mike!)

The Festival is provisionally being reorganised for Saturday 14 November, again with careful measures in place to be Covid-safe. More details soon.

Smart and Fair Futures project - our energy project is really getting going. We now have a Local Steering Group and we are delighted that Vanessa Scott, West Oxford District Council Climate Change manager, and Eynsham sustainability and renewables expert, Helen Gavin, have joined members of GreenTEA, with the Low Carbon Hub and a very good external renewables expert. This big project will include a Zero Carbon Energy Action Plan for the whole Eynsham area, and long-term stewardship and business models,

with the aim of ensuring that the community benefits from the new development, and can influence its quality. Our inspiration panel has helped us with responses to the Garden Village planning application and the Area Action Plan, calling for exemplary standards. Info. below and on [our Energy Page](#).

Good ideas for activities from Transition Network - [sustainability resources and opportunities](#)

Local News

Bikesafe - tell us of a virtual meeting by Greenpeace on 'The Future of Transport in Oxfordshire' see 'Events' below.

Land use and practice in England - are you interested in joining a series of workshops and planning classes to examine the concept of land use planning and the way in which it is being practiced in England? 'Dan the Plan' is offering a chance to do this online through regular Zoom meetings. [Contact: Dan the Plan](#)

Area Action Plan (AAP) - Sarah reports that "the Area Action Plan is now officially [out for consultation](#) from 28th August to 23rd October. Not that much has changed since the last draft, though a new section on monitoring has been added. It is still an ambitious plan... and from conversations with people involved, the community input to the process has made it much easier for WODC to be ambitious." GreenTEA and EPIC are combining a response. Make shorter, individual email responses to joan.desmond@westoxon.gov.uk

LCON and others - have arranged an [information webinar](#) for community groups and their members across Oxford. "We are delighted that Geordie Stewart, Scheme Manager for [Cosy Homes Oxfordshire](#), has offered to join us to talk about the new 'Green Homes Grant'. The webinar is planned for **4 November at 7pm**, and we will circulate further details, including how to register, soon". Contact [Julia Patrick from LCON](#).

'Oxford 2040 Event' - run by Low Carbon Oxford North, it explored what a thriving Oxford in 2040 could look like, and what action we need to take, drawing on [Damon Gameau's inspiring film '2040'](#). "Our panel of guest speakers included **Barbara Hammond MBE** from the [Low Carbon Hub](#) on energy, **Abena Poku-Awuah** from the [Coalition for Healthy Streets and Active Travel](#) on travel, and **Harpreet Kaur Paul**, lawyer and [climate-just](#)

[solutions consultant](#), on food and farming". A recording is now [available here](#). email LCON: info@lcon.org.uk

Fresh Thinking by CAG network - "Our line up for our annual [Fresh Thinking autumn workshop](#) series is filling up and we'd love to see you take part. Sessions will run throughout October and November and will look at everything from facilitation and conflict resolution to engagement and participation. Please email comms@cagoxfordshire.org.uk to take up the offer and let us know which events you would like to attend." You'll find information on [dates and sessions here](#).

National News

Prince Charles calls for 'swift' action on climate change - The [Prince of Wales has warned](#) that the climate crisis will "dwarf the impact of coronavirus".

Prince William launches £50m Earthshot Prize - The [Duke of Cambridge](#) says he wants to inject "a bit of hope, a bit of positivity" that the planet can be saved.

UK must 'step up' building offshore wind farms - More Government action needed to deliver the promise from Boris Johnson to [power every home with offshore wind by 2030](#).

BP calls for early ban on new petrol and diesel cars - [BP has joined calls](#) to bring forward a ban on sales of new petrol and diesel cars in Britain.

UK "will take 700 years" to reach low-carbon heating - Energy experts say [record rise in new gas boilers installed](#) shows UK going in **wrong direction**.

Lithium firm makes 'globally significant' find in Cornwall - Discovery of [high-grade metal used for electric car batteries](#) 'could be enough to meet total future UK demand'.

Fossil fuel companies 'misleading' Boris on green hydrogen - David Cebon, professor of engineering at Cambridge University, has warned that [hydrogen is far from a silver bullet](#)'.

Cumbria mine: Return of coal calls greens to battle - "Planning officials at Cumbria County Council have recommended approving the UK's [first deep coal mine for five years](#)".

NHS sets net-zero emissions target for 2040 - Plans include creating 40 new net-zero hospitals and rolling out electric ambulances. It could become the first global health service to [eliminate its entire carbon footprint](#).

Ministers to review UK energy policy on climate grounds - Nine-year-old [rules for approving energy projects](#) to be brought into line with UK's net zero law.

Sunak plans carbon emissions tax to help rebuild economy - A [carbon tax of £75 per tonne of CO₂](#) emitted by 2030 is under review for when the UK withdraws from the EU ETS.

International News

How Joe Biden could create an international 'Climate Club' - The Democratic candidate has committed to [rejoining the Paris Climate Accord](#) to reduce global emissions.

Air pollution will kill more people this year than Coronavirus
- - - <https://www.globalcitizen.org>

UN summit: World leaders pledge to halt Earth's destruction - UK among more than 60 countries promising to [put wildlife and climate](#) at heart of post-Covid recovery plans.

IMF: Now is the time for big infrastructure projects - International Monetary Fund say [governments can create millions of jobs](#) if they use higher public investment.

Governments blocking path to carbon-neutral future - [Governments are blocking economies](#) from making transition to become carbon-neutral, UN Secretary-General warns.

Shell and BP creating 'existential crisis' laments Rosneft - Kremlin-owned giant says [clean energy moves will hit oil supply](#), confirming threat transition poses to Russian economy.

Saudi-led G20 energy statement backs fossil fuel bailouts - G20 energy ministers neglected commitments to end fossil fuel subsidies and instead [focused on stabilising the oil market](#).

Climate change: China aims for 'carbon neutrality by 2060' - [Announcement at the UN General Assembly](#) is seen as a significant step, as China is the world's largest source of CO₂. HURRAH!

EU chief proposes leap in emission-cutting to 2030 - [Bloc set to increase target from 40% to 55%](#), ramping up pressure on UK to tighten own pledge en route to COP26.

BP warns of oil demand peak by early 2020s - Coronavirus pandemic ushers in an earlier than anticipated [decline for the fossil fuel era](#). WHOOPPEE!

Go mostly vegetarian to save plant and animal world, UN urge - [None of 20 UN biodiversity targets](#) have been achieved in the last year...

I'm a chicken-eating hypocrite, says David Attenborough - [Sir David has admitted to "middle-class hypocrisy"](#) for eating free-range chicken while urging others to give up meat.

David Attenborough has another new film '[A Life on Our Planet](#)', which he has called his 'witness statement and vision of the future'. It is available on Netflix from 4th October.

The decarbonization of the energy infrastructure - the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in heavy industries, and the production of low-carbon hydrogen will be virtually impossible without carbon capture, utilization, and storage (CCUS), the International Energy Agency (IEA) said in a [new report](#).

Study: Spread volcanic ash across seabed to capture carbon - Volcanic ash should be spread across seabed as [cheap way to capture carbon and tackle climate change](#) say scientists. NEAT!

New books

'The Hidden Life of Trees' by Peter Wohlleben "Peter Wohlleben is a generous and knowledgeable guide into this fascinating and complex secret world hidden in plain sight. "[The Hidden Life of Trees](#)" is a powerful reminder to slow down and tune into the language of nature." - Rachel Sussman, author of "The Oldest Living Things in the World" See 'Events'.

GreenTEA Events

Saturday 14 November: Postponed Festival... watch this space!

Monday 9 November: Discussion Group 'The Hidden Life of
Trees' 7.30pm Contact: helenasamthar@gmail.com

Other Events

Friday October 16 - '[Future of Transport in Oxfordshire](#)' Greenpeace virtual meeting 6pm

Tuesday October 20 - '[A guide to insulating your home](#)' by Cosy Homes Oxfordshire 6pm

Saturday November 7 - Jonathon Porritt 'The Current Climate Emergency' 7:00 to
8:00pm [Register for your free ticket](#)
