

The Brew (October 2021)

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GreenTEA News

'Great Big Green Week' - Eynsham's contribution to this national effort was HUGE! The nationwide event was created by 'Climate Coalition' to [highlight the upcoming COP26](#). GreenTEA coordinated all the groups, and contributed events as well. Following a rousing welcome by Cllr. Ross Macken, between 18th and 26th September there was a plethora of events, including:

Garden tours; Eynsham's Hedgehog Highway; Electric vehicle demo. and test-drives; Music and dancing from Eynsham Morris and 'Horns of Plenty'; 'Small but Mighty Theatre' performed 'A Midsummer Night's Dream; Family Science Activity Trail; Repair Café; 'Talk Tent'- inspiration from the experts; a Litter Pick; Free Plant-based Food; and, lastly a 'Forest Bathe' - creating a peaceful finale...

Apart from one or two hiccups, a most successful programme, discussed at length afterwards, with the conclusion that it would be well worth using many of the events on a smaller scale in the future and involving local youth and other local groups. Meanwhile the GBGW team would raise public awareness and stimulate the politicians with letters to our MP and local newspapers focussing on the upcoming [COP26](#).

Letter to Boris - On October 7th, in The Times and The Telegraph, via 'The Climate Coalition' and the 'Oxfordshire Climate Alliance' (of which GreenTEA is a member). [Text and more information here](#).

Post-GBGW letter to MP & Others - including 'Oxford Times' to emphasise the huge public interest in COP26 ... see GBGW above.

Local News

BikeSafe - Eynsham was briefly host to the 'Women's Tour' - a national women's cycle race. The competitors whizzed by impressively at 30mph! They were guarded by an equally impressive number of police motorcyclists, and welcomed by large B4044-Community Path banners! The crowd of spectators provided 40 signatures for the Bikesafe petition for cycle-safe crossings at the Eynsham A40 roundabout! Altogether a most satisfying event!

Energy Expert and member of Low Carbon Oxford North - Brenda Boardman appeared on Radio 4's 'The Life Scientific'. [Listen back here](#) as Brenda, of the ECI, talks about how we must make our homes more energy efficient!

'Aurora Solar Farm' tour - On Sunday 19th September, as part of the 'Great Big Green Week' programme, about 30 visitors, including GreenTEA members, were shown around this 110 acre plot near '12 Acre Farm'. The leader, from the developers [Low Carbon](#), showed us the site, where the construction of the photovoltaic panel supports was well underway. He mentioned that the scheme would cost £14million and have an installed capacity of 30Megawatts; capable of supplying 9,000 households per annum, with a saving of over 7,000 tonnes of CO₂ emissions per annum. The Farm is one of several planned by Low Carbon.

At Woodstock - Matt, a regular orchard walker, suggested a name for their 'bug hotel' : **'Orchard Bee and Bee' !** Incidentally, for those foodies keen to support higher welfare for animals and fewer pesticides, you should look to, for example, [RSPCA Assured](#), and [Free Range and Organic](#) labels which have significantly higher standards than the Red Tractor scheme and the [minimum UK](#) & EU standards. (thank you Hilary - Chair of Sustainable Woodstock)

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS - for the 'First and Last Mile' community bus between Standlake, Eynsham and Hanborough Station, will be more welcome than ever as [routes and timetables firm up](#).

Low Carbon Hub Joint CIC and IPS AGMs 2021 - The 'Community Interest Company' and the 'Industrial and Provident Society' are the vehicles used by [Low Carbon Hub](#) for ethical investment schemes to benefit the community. The AGMs attracted just over 100 participants who learned that the businesses were growing and providing a range of renewable energy programmes. Seven community groups as well as individuals had invested £4.5million equity. Projects included 'Ray Valley Solar', now the largest community generator in the country! Income amounted to over £1million last year for the first time! The County currently spends £1.5 billion per annum on energy, most of which goes to foreign fossil fuel companies! Impressive AGMs - Keep up the good work LCH !

National News

TUC: Jobs at risk if UK fails to hit carbon emissions target - Up to [660,000 jobs could be at risk](#) if the UK fails to reach its net-zero target as quickly as other nations.

Scheme to install 20,000 gas boilers branded 'wasteful' - "The proposals come just a [decade before the appliances are set to be phased out](#) in an effort to tackle climate change." *WHAT?!*

Green homes revolution could create 138,000 jobs - New report shows investment could slash energy bills and pump nearly [£10bn into the UK economy by 2030](#).

Eco-garden scoops top prize at Chelsea Flower Show - [Garden includes a cutting-edge living wall](#) to suck dirty air in, purify it, feed it into a bamboo-covered seating area.

From the ECIU - A food system hooked on fossil fuels is bad for farmers and families. As gas prices put pressure on the food system, ECIU's Matt Williams shows why [food doesn't need to rely on fossil fuels](#).

Greta Thunberg criticises Boris Johnson's 'blah' promises - Greta Thunberg has [derided Boris Johnson's "inactive" record](#) on fighting climate change.

Poll: Public support gov scheme to help scrap gas boilers - [70% would back grant scheme](#) to help homes replace their fossil fuel boilers with heat pumps, says poll of 2,000 people.

'Planet is now in crisis!' Prince William calls for action - Prince William has said planet is in crisis & has [called for environmental action](#) ahead of latest BBC documentary series.

Fossil fuel industry gets subsidies of \$11m a minute, IMF finds - Trillions of dollars a year are ['adding fuel to the fire'](#) of the climate crisis, experts say.

From the ECIU... Why the UK's 1% of global emissions is a big deal - It's often claimed the UK, at 1% of global emissions, is too small to have an impact. Gareth Redmond-King explores [what's wrong with this calculation](#).

Drax's 'renewable energy plant' is UK's biggest CO₂ emitter! - Drax received more than £800m in subsidies last year and [emits more CO₂ and particulates](#) than many coal power stations.

\$3.5 trillion !! - Economic costs due to climate impacts worldwide, between 1999 and 2018. Source: [Climate Transparency report 2021](#).

International News

Investments in renewables will stabilise energy prices - Investments in renewable energies will [stabilise energy prices in the future](#), EU energy commissioner Kadri Simson said.

US and China climate commitments raise hopes ahead of COP26 - Beijing coal financing announcement and funding pledge from Biden inject [rare note of optimism](#).

Young climate strikers vow change is coming from the streets - [Mass youth protests](#) hit more than 1,400 locations on 24 September, just weeks before COP26 climate summit.

From the ECIU. What does progress in New York mean for Glasgow? - Commitments from [two of the biggest global emitters](#) at the UN General Assembly send UK COP26 hosts home with hope for further momentum before the UN climate summit in Glasgow this November.

Cutting methane should be a key COP26 aim, research suggests - Oil and gas producers could cut emissions at low cost or even [profit by stopping leaks](#) says Energy Transitions Commission.

Religious leaders issue pre-COP26 appeal on climate change - Pope and other faith leaders call for COP26 to provide "[effective responses to the unprecedented ecological crisis](#)".

WWF's Living Planet Report - estimates that we've lost [68% of all vertebrate wildlife populations](#) since 1970. During that time, our population has more than doubled, to over 7.8 billion today.

Voices of Youth - created by UNICEF is a [dedicated platform for young advocates](#) to offer inspiring and original insights on issues that matter to them.

Halt destruction of nature or risk 'dead planet', leading businesses warn - In an [open letter](#), the chief executives of Unilever, H&M and nine other companies have called on governments to take meaningful action on mass extinctions of wildlife and the collapse of ecosystems or risk "a dead planet".

World leaders urged to consider health benefits of climate action - Hundreds of international health organisations and professionals sign [open letter to politicians ahead of Cop26](#).

IEA report: Clean-energy spending must triple to curb climate - Carbon emissions '[will drop just 40% by 2050 with countries' current pledges](#)', warns IEA chief Fatih Birol.

New books –

'**English Pastoral - An Inheritance**' by James Rebanks publ. Allen Lane. 'A heartfelt book and one that dares to hope' Alan Bennett

GreenTEA Events

November 11th Discussion Group 7.30pm 'National newspapers views of COP26' To join [contact Helena](#)

Jan 13th Core Group meeting 7.30pm

Other Events

October 21-22nd Oxford Botanic Garden 400th Anniversary - online or actual - [book in advance](#)

October 23rd - A Tree Champions orientation day 10.00-16.00 hrs (with an hour lunch break – please bring your own lunch) [Download the flyer here](#) S1 bus stops nearby.

November 6th COP26 Coalition - **COP26 DEMONSTRATION** in Oxford: <https://cop26coalition.org> › gda

November 10th et seq. Wild Oxfordshire's 'Talking Hedgerows' See the [Wild Oxfordshire website](#) for more information.

November 17-18th Online - register: Oxfordshire [Greentech post-COP26 annual conference](#) Two online morning sessions after COP26, 10am-1pm, followed by discussions.
