

The Brew (February 2021)

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## GreenTEA News

**Core Group meeting** — on 20.1.21, was a lively and useful zoom meeting. Our new member, Ross Macken (Parish Councillor) informed us that the EPC intend to challenge the withdrawal of the Wharf Stream Way as a public path! Long-term residents are asked to PLEASE complete the form in [Eynsham Online](#). We welcomed two more new members this month: Tricia Crowley and Lucy Dickinson. We look forward to further lively Core Group meetings!

**[Ecotricity](#) recommended by GreenTEA** — "We're Britain's greenest energy company; join us and together we'll replace fossil fuels with green energy."

**Tree planting help for Thornbury Close** — Plans are being hatched for planting trees, seeds and bulbs to help and engage new residents... contact [Sue Raikes](#).

**Letter to WODC about Chilbrook Meadows OPA** — GreenTEA and EPIC have teamed up to write both a community letter and detailed response to an Outline Planning Application (OPA) for a development in West Eynsham. The community letter can be downloaded [here](#) and further detailed comment shortly on the EPIC pages in [Eynsham Online](#). Please email [epic2031@gmail.com](mailto:epic2031@gmail.com) with your name and address, before March 18th, if you wish to ADD YOUR SIGNATURE to the letter. Your address will not be published.

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## Local News

### **'NRN's Long Read for the New Year' by Kevan Martin and Catriona Bass of Long**

**Mead** — A fascinating and enthusiastic portrayal of the importance and role of trees in the balance of nature, including Climate Change. The history of 'veteran' and 'ancient' trees is discussed, also the much lamented loss of some magnificent Eynsham trees, including the wonderful ancient Walnut tree in Station Road and the magnificent Copper Beech in Newland Street. You can [read it here](#), together with Sarah Couch's excellent sequel: 'Some Thoughts on Ancient and Veteran Trees'.

**Working Together for Wildlife webinar** — also from the Nature Recovery Network, a recent online event to look at ways in which Parish Councils, community groups and NGOs can come together to manage our villages in ways that 'conserve and enhance biodiversity'. The recording is now [available online](#), and the slides and questions will be added to the Nature Recovery website soon.

**Eynsham News may fold!** — this invaluable local free newspaper has faithfully recorded every event and opinion in Eynsham since its inception in 2014. The current team, who have done a brilliant job for 7 years now, wish to retire. If new personnel can be recruited it could save its life! Could YOU HELP PLEASE? There's still time and you can find contact email and telephone number in the [January issue](#).

**BikeSafe** — ongoing work with The Coalition for Healthy Streets and Active Travel (COHSAT) and OCC officers has established the design and treatment of the Westway/B4044 Eynsham Road/Cumnor Hill junction. From this has emerged a petition to OCC for safer roads through Botley and along the Eynsham Road. Please sign the [URGENT petition](#).

**Cosy Homes Oxfordshire** — (Project Partner; Low Carbon Hub). As the Covid restrictions currently stand, we are still able to conduct home assessments and to undertake home retrofit work, as part of the construction industry. So, if you've noticed draughts, damp, or leaks over the colder period, we'd still love to hear from you - why not get started with our [free online Plan Builder](#)?

**Cassington Allotments** — WODC have designated Cassington allotments as an 'Asset of Community Value' as set out in Section 88 of the Localism Act 2011. And the petition to

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save them has now collected over 10,000 signatures.... still open! [PLEASE SIGN!](#)

## National News

**Prince Charles** — "hopes to persuade big business to save the planet", [bringing together his half century of campaigning](#).

**From the ECIU Blog: No, Net Zero will not 'cost 10 million jobs'** — Reports of 'staggering' job losses raised eyebrows, but [were they right?](#)

**Ambitious plans to rewild Britain** — with lost toads, frogs and lizards are afoot in Staffordshire where [two teenage boys are well on their way to creating the country's largest outdoor breeding facility for reptiles and amphibians](#). Now with financial backers in place and high profile mentors, they're just steps away from making their dream a reality.

**Bid to stop UK building Europe's biggest gas plant fails** — A legal challenge to the UK government's approval of the Drax gas-fired power plant has [failed](#) in the court of appeal

**Alok Sharma seethes at Robert Jenrick over Cumbria coal mine** — "[COP26 President 'apoplectic' with cabinet minister](#) for approving Britain's first new deep coal mine in decades." *CRAZY COAL MINE !!!*

**UK renewables overtake fossil fuels for first time in 2020** — Renewables [overtook](#) fossil fuels to be biggest source of electricity in UK for the first time in 2020, report shows.

**UK N. Sea oil rigs release as much CO<sub>2</sub> as coal power station** — "[Rigs deliberately burn off enough unwanted gas to heat 1m homes](#)", UK regulator said last year...

**New carbon taxes: meat, cheese and gas prices to rise** — "[Concerns raised over risks of higher costs under plans being drawn up by Number 10.](#)"  
*Maybe time to install electric cooker/hob - and Air/Ground-Pump heating...*

**Oil majors join scramble for offshore wind rights** — Record-breaking auction could [deliver up to £8.8bn](#) over 10 years to the Queen and UK Treasury.

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**Emissions cuts must rise by 80 per cent to hit Paris targets** — There is little chance of meeting global warming goals unless efforts are stepped up, the study [found](#).

**Green Homes Grant scheme stripped of £1.1bn** — Ministers reveal that [hundreds of millions in grants to clean up English homes](#) and drive a green recovery will be pulled.

## International News

**World leaders cheer US return to climate fight under Biden** — Boris Johnson and French President Emmanuel Macron were among those [welcoming Mr Biden's decision](#)... *GreenTEA too!!!*

**Extinction Rebellion says** — Without a massive mobilisation to address the climate crisis, our civilisation will collapse. That was the stark message delivered to policymakers this month in [an article](#) by an international team of scientists.

**Countries adapting too slowly to climate breakdown, UN warns** — Report says [not enough funding is being made available](#) to deal with effects of extreme weather.

**'Gas is over', EU bank chief says** — Europe needs to acknowledge that its [future is no longer with fossil fuels](#), says President of European Investment Bank.

**Mathis Wackernagel** — is one of 17 international scientists to co-author a new academic paper in *Frontiers in Conservation Science*, published last week. The shocking title "Underestimating the Challenges of Avoiding a Ghastly Future" led to nearly 1,000 news stories around the world. The article provides 150 references documenting the ecological challenges we face, also warning that these challenges may simultaneously erode society's capacity to counteract them. [Read the full article](#).

**Electric car batteries with five-minute charge time produced** — ['Recharging could](#)

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[soon be as fast as filling up petrol or diesel vehicles.'](#) *That's the ticket!!!*

**US court strikes down Trump's pro-coal power sector rules** — Decision gives Mr Biden clean slate to [deal with emissions from electricity generation](#).

**Speed of ice sheet melting 'confirms worst-case scenario'** — [Study shows](#) Arctic sea ice has reduced by 7.6 trillion tonnes and Antarctic ice by 6.5 trillion tonnes since the 1990s.

**Biggest global climate poll supports 'global emergency'** — UN survey finds almost [two thirds of people around the world](#) view climate change as a global emergency.

**General Motors to go all-electric by 2035** — General Motors is setting a goal to sell all its new cars, SUVs and light trucks with [zero tailpipe emissions](#) by 2035.

**Oil majors suffer massive losses in 2020** — The oil majors — BP, Chevron, ExxonMobil, Shell and Total — [suffered \\$77 billion in losses for the year](#). *HURRAH !*

**Climate veteran Xie Zhenhua returns as China's special envoy to the USA** — Xie Zhenhua is one of [China's most respected climate experts](#) and broker of the Paris Agreement. GREAT !!

**Carney: Climate Crisis deaths 'will be worse than Covid'** — Mark Carney [warns of mortality rates equivalent to Covid crisis](#) every year by mid-century unless action is taken.

**ECB urged to 'decarbonise' €2.4tn corporate credit holdings** — Call by French central bank governor intensifies debate on [how far monetary policy should go in tackling climate change...](#) All the way!

## **New books**

['Wilding - The return of nature to a British farm'](#) by Isabella Tree — "A poignant, practical and moving story of how to fix our broken land, this should be its future; this is a new

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hope." Chris Packham.

## **GreenTEA Events**

April 14th Core Group online 7.30pm

April 21st AGM online 7.30pm

## **Other Events**

February 20th 10am-5pm Creative Approaches to Community Engagement - Exploring creative ways of engaging communities in ecological, cultural, and social challenges. The workshop offers creative tools that can resource you and your projects. [More information here.](#)

March 4th et seq Lockdown may be upon us once more but you can still learn more about locally produced clean, green energy on a [virtual tour of the Westmill Wind Farm and Solar Park.](#)

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