

The Brew (May 2021)

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GreenTEA News

AGM – Held online on 21st April, the attendance was 15, including one non-GreenTEA member. A very upbeat [treasurer's report](#) was followed by the [secretary's report](#) which mentioned a new and very useful link with the Parish Council via one of four new members of core group; Cllr Ross Macken. Many activities had to be cancelled because of Covid19, but the stoicism and enterprise of key members produced an exhibition of Energy Group posters in The Square; Garden Village design input; major work on 'Smart and Fair Futures' including the Eynsham Area Energy Action Plan; tree pruning; pressure on politicians about Climate Change and Sustainability, and online Discussion Group meetings etc. etc. The [chairman's report](#) was dynamic, suggesting widening the membership by means of action-oriented activities and a special subgroup was agreed for this. So ... Covid? what's that? ... We Go On!!

Tree planting in Thornbury Green – will go ahead on Saturday 22nd May at 10.30am. This will involve mainly Thornbury Road residents and GreenTEA activists. If you would like to be involved please [contact Sue Raikes](#).

Stitches for Survival – Would you like to be creative and join a group of craft activists making a mile and a half long scarf to take to COP26 in Glasgow? The 1.5 miles represents the 1.5°C target in the Paris Agreement. The scarf will be made up of panels 60cm by 100cm and will be repurposed after COP26 to provide warm blankets for refugees with the more creative panels being kept for future activism. If you might be interested, please [contact Helena Nielsen](#) at or visit <https://stitchesforsurvival.earth/>

Banner drop with XR – On 'Mayday' GreenTEA members joined with Extinction Rebellion for a 'banner drop' in support of action on Climate Change, along the A40. Banners were displayed quietly and safely on fences on the A40. They engendered much support and 'tooting'! Thanks to a very helpful suggestion by our MP Robert Courts, we gained much extra attention by "doing something useful" i.e. litter-picking alongside the A40, complete with 'hi viz' jackets bearing banner slogans!

'Salt Cross Garden Village' – The newly appointed inspector has posed a number of preliminary questions to WODC prior to the examination of the Area Action Plan. EPIC and GreenTEA are working together again to review the documents and, if appropriate, offer new information/evidence. If you wish to make a personal, written response to the inspector's questions use the relevant [page on the WODC website](#). You can also apply to speak at the online hearings if you meet the conditions they set out on the website, that is, new information or evidence in relation to something you have already asked to be changed. Deadline for written statements is 12:00 noon on Friday 4 June 2021. Requests to speak should be received by 12:00 noon on Friday 14 May 2021. NB: In all cases the Inspector will only accept new information and evidence.

Local News

Bikesafe – Have noted the change in balance of County Councillors since the election, in particular the loss of Leader of the Council, Cllr Ian Hudspeth! They hope that this might result in approval of the B4044 Community Path and its construction forthwith!

A fortnightly Craft Club – has been set up by the Peace Oak Association. Members (over 14yrs) will be working with natural materials such as hazel, willow, fabrics and fibres and using simple hand tools. A great contribution to future self-sufficiency! Further information on [Eynsham Online](#).

Nature Recovery Network – held an [online celebratory gathering](#) attended by around 70 people who shared news of all the amazing things which they managed to accomplish to help survey, promote and protect nature in and around Eynsham over the past year. More information on surveys, planting, wildlife support and other activities are available on their website at <https://www.nature-recovery-network.org/>. Also available on their [You Tube](#)

[channel](#) are the Tiny Talks, which proved to be a great success. "We had 138 attendees (ie computers, many of them with at least 2 people watching). Since the talks, 640 people have viewed the videos. You can find a summary of what we learned from each talk and links to the relevant resources on the NRN website as well as the link to the videos if you want to watch them again." (Long Mead Conservation Project news)

Improving your home to use less energy – 19th May, 7.30-9pm Meet local home owners who have carried out big and small measures, to find out what they learnt in the process, and what their top tips are. Find out more and [register for this free online event here](#).

Enterprising Sustainable Wantage – have launched a new map to provide information on where belongings can be repaired or passed on to be reused or recycled locally. Using the map will help people to cut down waste, save money and also support local businesses and charities. It covers items ranging from duvets, shoes and washing machines to pre-loved jewellery, wedding dresses and furniture. They hope that their scheme can act as a template for other community action groups in other local towns and we can build a network of all the places everyone can reuse and repair! To see and use the map online, click here: [Re-use and Repair map](#).

The Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill – is the only legislation before the UK Parliament that provides a viable strategy to tackle the climate crisis and reverse the tragedy of ecological destruction. We are aware that 4 local council candidates have been invited to pledge support for the CEE bill. So far, two have pledged and one is known to support... Our MP Robert Courts persists in his refusal to support the bill. For more information on the Bill, visit the [CEE Bill website](#)—and read the [FAQs](#).

[The Oxford Climate Justice Campaign](#) – has published a report detailing [Oxford University's ties with the fossil fuel industry](#) (in particular donations and funding), and calling on the university to stop accepting sponsorship, grants or donations from fossil fuel companies and ensure that the careers service stops advertising jobs in the fossil fuel industry. Find out more and [access the report here](#).

National News

The Government is sending out the wrong signals as to where its priorities

lie – Mixed messages on electric cars, insulation and domestic flights risks damaging public confidence, Energy and Climate Intelligence Unit's [Jonathan Marshall writes in the 'i'](#)

How can Boris Johnson hit his new carbon-cutting target – Campaigners complain of [slow progress on existing climate change goals](#) as UK vows to accelerate green transition.

Johnson must push G7 to pay more in climate aid, say experts – Rich countries urged to stump up to [help developing nations cut greenhouse gas emissions](#).

UK woos sovereign wealth funds over green investments – UK in talks with some of world's biggest sovereign wealth & pension funds about [investing in British green energy](#).

From the ECIU... Time for Treasury to move the net zero debate forward – The impending [Treasury Net Zero Review](#) is a chance to tackle this head on, dispelling some of the greatest myths about a 'crippling' cost of decarbonising.

Environment ministry has no plan to meet emissions target – Leaked internal memo reveals Defra, responsible for 10% of UK emissions, is [yet to agree policies to meet climate goals](#).

Using hydrogen fuel risks locking in reliance on fossil fuels – [Electrification of cars and home boilers](#) best choice to fight the climate crisis, say scientists.

Attenborough reveals 'most magical moment of his life' - Daily Express readers team up with Attenborough to [urge the Government to show leadership](#) in fighting climate change.

Call for deal to help farmers fight climate change – Think tank warns that [farming sector is key to tackling the nature and climate crises](#). Agriculture responsible for 10% of UK greenhouse gas emissions.

Restoring UK's peatlands, forests and grasslands 'vital' – [Protecting Britain's ecosystems](#) could help to boost natural carbon stores and enhance public well-being, scientists say.

International News

'Impossible' to limit temperatures if COP26 fails, MPs – The [UK government has set out "little detail"](#) on what it wants to achieve during COP26, says group of MPs.

New Google Earth feature shows devastating climate change – Google announced ability to view the past 37 years of our planet in a new feature called ['Timelapse', on Google Earth...](#)

New York City sues Exxon, BP, Shell over climate change – The lawsuit argues [fuels are being misrepresented as "cleaner"](#) and companies advertise as leaders in the climate change.

Bolsonaro promises Biden to end deforestation – " Brazil's Bolsonaro wrote to Joe Biden [pledging to end illegal deforestation by 2030](#), with considerable financial help." Greenpeace's comment : "risky talks to pay Brazil to save Amazon" *It needs doing earlier!*

European oil and gas majors spend up on wind and solar – BP made the biggest moves in terms of value, with plans for [multibillion-dollar offshore wind farms](#).

US must lead green energy revolution to combat China – Secretary of State Blinken [warns America risks losing out](#) on chance to shape climate future.

Nobel laureates back fossil fuel non-proliferation treaty – Dalai Lama among those to sign letter to world leaders [calling for rapid shift to renewable energy](#).

Climate crisis has shifted the Earth's axis, study shows – Massive melting of glaciers has [tilted the planet's rotation](#), showing the impact of human activities.

Urgent methane cuts needed to rein in climate change – [Deep cuts in methane emissions](#), including from fossil fuel industry, urgently needed to keep warming to 1.5°C warns UN.

Quitting coal power 'single most important' before COP26 – World must ['drastically' cut back on fossil fuels](#) if serious about meeting climate goals, says IEA chief Fatih Birol.

Germany sets tougher CO₂ emission reduction targets – Following court ruling,

Germany's government announces [more ambitious plans to cut greenhouse gas emissions](#).

Bolsonaro allowing record assault on Amazon rainforest – Area the [size of the Isle of Man cleared in the Brazilian Amazon](#) last month alone, risking environmental catastrophe.

G7 should invest \$10 trillion in climate-friendly recovery – Nicholas Stern said in report that G7 is crucial opportunity for [richest economies to make real change to global economy](#).

New books

[Prosperity Without Growth - Foundations for the Economy of Tomorrow](#) by Tim Jackson
'One of the most important essays of our generation: both visionary and realistic, rooted in careful research and setting out difficult but achievable goals, it gives what we so badly need - an alternative to passivity, short-term selfishness and cynicism.' — Dr Rowan Williams, The Master of Magdalene College, Cambridge University and was the 104th Archbishop of Canterbury, UK.

GreenTEA Events

Saturday May 22nd - Tree planting at Thornbury Green at 10.30am. Residents and GreenTEA members welcome, [contact Sue Raikes](#)

Other Events

Community Energy England's Community Energy Fortnight - is the annual celebration of all things community energy. This year, it will take place 14-27 June and the theme is #WeThePower. For details get in touch with Jon: (j.hall@communityenergyengland.org).
