

The Brew (June 2020)

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GreenTEA News

GreenTEA is still unable to hold any public events or internal meetings. We are doing our best on the digital front and this amounts to 'Zoom' meetings, and activities like letters to our MP, to planning bodies e.g. the developers of the 'Garden Village' and 'West Eynsham', and to newspapers.

The 'Book Discussion Group' - met successfully via 'Zoom' on Thursday 14th May to discuss Gilbert White's "[The Natural History of Selborne](#)". Written in 1789, and based on letters between himself and two eminent naturalists; Thomas Pennant and Hon. Daines Barrington, his vivid descriptions inform about much of the wildlife around his home in Hampshire 230 years ago! The recent illustrated edition includes beautiful drawings of plants and animals by contemporary artists. Sadly only about 50% of this wildlife survives now owing to the invasion of the land by mankind in the form of large building developments and 'factory farming'.

The next meeting, via 'Zoom' on 22nd June will be about 'COVID and its implications for Climate Change'. For information, [contact Helena](#).

Local News

Have your say on the Council's Climate Change Consultation - go to <https://www.westoxon.gov.uk/environment/climate-action/your-views-on-climate->

[action/](#) (closing date 16 June)

Rob Hopkins, co-founder of the Transition Movement, - is finally making it to Oxford - via Zoom! On 17th June 6 - 8 pm, Rob will be talking to us about the ideas held in asking 'What If...?', imagining a collective future which can transform our communities in a way never seen before. It comes at a perfect time given that the pandemic has shown just how unsustainable our realities are, and the need to work together to build them. This event is for CAG members and Makespace residents only. We can accommodate more people online, but still have a limit on the capacity. [Book your free tickets here](#) and we will send you a link to the event nearer the time.

Bikesafe - Mostly good news, in short note form.

1. OCC consultants are due now to deliver an optioneering report on the path from Siemens roundabout to the A40, and the stretch from Westway (Botley) to the A420 overpass (Dean Court)
2. It is planned that OCC sign off the money needed to apply (to themselves) for planning permission to build the B4044 community path during the 3rd quarter 2020.
3. With the Botley Road improvement scheme about to get underway the vision of a safe cycling and walking route from Eynsham to Oxford station is beginning to become reality.

Thank you all for your continuing and unstinting support for BikeSafe and the campaign for the B4044 community path. (John Blackie, Sec.)

The Oxfordshire Open Thought initiative - would like to hear what changes you think we need to undergo to transform Oxfordshire into a sustainable, resilient and thriving county by 2050. Your input can help find solutions on three key areas: living and working, connectivity and climate change. All you have to do is [use their form to tell them your views](#). ('The Key News' 4.6.20)

Over the May weekend - did you see messages, in the form of leaves, tied onto 'Trees of Hope' in Eynsham Square and nearby villages? These 'leaves' were a response to an invitation by our local Extinction Rebellion group for our communities to express hopes, dreams and aspirations for a better world after COVID-19. Children painted pictures, one with the poignant message, "I miss my friends". Other messages were about: Caring and

Connections, “I hope we will maintain a stronger, fairer community” and “Let’s re-wild and re-connect with nature”; Sustainability, “I hope that we re-invest in the green economy, not back to business as usual” and; ‘Can do’ is possible, “I hope we remember we can make big changes in an emergency!”

Feedback on the street suggests that this action nourished community spirit, encouraged people to think about how it **is** possible for governments, communities and individuals to change quickly and how they might contribute to a better future. Angie

Titchen, for XR Swallows, West Oxon. www.xroxford.org

Bike Donations “With lift-shares falling through, public transport disrupted and shift patterns changed, [Windrush Bike Project](#) in Witney began donating bikes to key workers at the end of March. Almost 50 bikes have now been donated and the scheme has been mirrored by [Active Oxfordshire](#) who are working with [CycloX](#), [Broken Spoke Bike Co-op](#) and Oxford City Council to provide a similar scheme in the city.” Well done Kevin and Crew – a fine example!! (CAG Network Update 15.5.20)

Biodegradable plastics from plant sugars? - A bioplastics company in the Netherlands has set up a pioneering project that hopes to make plastics from [plant sugars rather than fossil fuels](#). The project already has the backing of Coca-Cola, Danone and Carlsberg and trials have shown that the plant plastic would decompose in one year using a composter, a few years in normal outdoor conditions and can also be recycled. If successful, the new technology could see a huge reduction in the 300 million tonnes of plastic made from fossil fuels every year.

National News

Electric bikes 'could help people return to work' - Bikes can slash transport emissions and [offer workers way to return to workplace](#) during coronavirus - study.

UK 'gigafactory' a step closer as battery rivals join forces - [Joint venture set to help Britain catch up](#) with Germany and Sweden on £4bn car battery facility.

Government pressed to tackle green issues despite economic challenges - A green lining to recovery plan can [generate jobs and slow climate change](#), say experts.

SSE: Climate change could have greater economic impact than coronavirus - The

boss of SSE energy giant wants the UK government to encourage [private investment in renewables](#).

UK public see renewable energy investment as very important - Renewable energy investment seen as the most essential infrastructure type, according to [research by YouGov](#).

Green recovery from Covid19 - More Britons now favour a [green Covid-19 exit policy](#) focused on the environment than one putting the economy first. (Thanks Tony!)

Car industry seeks support to buy petrol and diesel vehicles - [Industry in talks over stimulus package](#) that encourages purchase of diesel and petrol cars as well as cleaner vehicles.

Sir John Houghton - a co-chair of the IPCC scientific group and [hero of the climate struggle](#), has died
Of COVID 19.

Fossil gas set for biggest-ever demand fall in 2020 - IEA predicts 4% gas slump, twice scale seen after 2008 financial crisis, with [renewables growth adding to Covid impact](#).

Britain's homes hold the key to rebooting the economy - Large overlap between [regions with leaky homes and those with high unemployment](#) and ready-to-go workforce, says Jess Ralston of 'Energy&Climate Intelligence Unit' - 'A marriage made in Heaven!'

International News

China threatens to pull plug on new British nuclear plants – “No 10 dismisses a [warning of retaliation for dropping Huawei](#) from the 5G network as ‘sabre-rattling’.” Hurrah – roll on Renewables!!

UK will focus on clean recovery, pledges Sharma - COP26 can be moment when world can [unite behind a green and fair recovery](#)’, says its President.

Over \$1 billion to go into environment while creating jobs - New Zealand to pump almost \$1.1 billion towards restoring its environment, creating an [expected 11,000 short-](#)

[term jobs](#).

Rwanda submits tougher emission-cutting plan to the UN - The Kigali government is the first in Africa to [strengthen its commitment to emissions cuts by 2030](#) and ramp up its plan.

“Heed lessons of 2008 crisis”, experts warn global leaders - [Call to avoid more inequality](#) and climate breakdown when coronavirus crisis ends.

Pakistan to Plant 10 Billion Trees With Those Laid Off During Pandemic - The country has put its unemployed population back to work, [giving them the job of planting trees](#) as part of a hugely ambitious “green recovery” project. Nice ‘Win/Win’ move!

BlackRock to flag climate concerns at ExxonMobil AGM - [Fund manager will vote against re-election](#) of two directors and for splitting chair and CEO role.

EU greenhouse gas emissions continue to fall as coal ditched - New figures for 2018 show [2.1% drop on previous year](#) in switch to renewables.

Prince Charles: Pandemic is chance to reset global economy - Prince of Wales unveils a [five-point plan to stimulate sustainable economic growth](#).

Earth has its hottest May on record – [“The Earth had its hottest May ever last month”](#), scientists with the Copernicus Climate Change Service announced today. ‘Ere we go..!

BP to cut 10,000 jobs worldwide amid huge drop in oil demand - Chief exec says [firm must reinvent itself](#) and emerge from the crisis a “leaner, faster-moving and lower carbon company”

Million-mile electric vehicle battery ready for production - Chinese firm that supplies Tesla has battery that can last [16 years and potentially be reused in second vehicle](#).

New books

[‘On Fire: The Burning Case for a Green New Deal’](#) by Naomi Klein published 17 Sep 2019.

Review: “On Fire captures the burning urgency of the climate crisis, as well as the energy of a rising political movement demanding change now.”

GreenTEA Events

June 17th (Wed) The Rob Hopkins event has been rescheduled to 17th June 6-8pm (see details above)

June 22nd (Mon) Discussion Group (Zoom): ‘COVID and its implications for Climate Change’. [Contact Helena for information](#).

Other Events

[CAT at Home](#) activities, include a brand new range of [free webinars](#) and other online events.

We've also added extra [fun family activities](#), with more resources and online events coming soon.
