

The Brew (July 2018)

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GreenTEA News

Christiana Figueres - Two GreenTEA members recently attended an inspirational discussion in London with former UN Climate Chief Christiana Figueres, led by Damian Carrington, Environment Editor of The Guardian as part of their 'Guardian Live' series. Ms Figueres pointed out that "we don't have a 'plan B' or a 'planet B'." "There is a powerful moral imperative at the heart of climate change" she said, "and we have to work together to halt it with an optimistic and collaborative, not a confrontational approach." She outlined what is going well and what is not well and answered the many questions with impressive confidence. It was this approach that enabled her to clinch the COP21 Paris agreement in contrast with all the previous failed attempts. We left with greater feelings of optimism and hope and agreed that this had been a fascinating discussion.

'Future Directions' meeting – A seminal meeting of the Core Group on 18th July will discuss future activities. All ideas welcome – [to Ros please](#).

August edition of 'The Brew' - owing to editors' holidays delivery may be later than usual, on 20th August.

Local news

Bikesafe – At the recent local consultations on the Eynsham-Dean Court Community Path over 100 people turned up to view the plan and discuss all its aspects. Most people were very much in favour of the path, and made constructive comments about priorities, lighting etc. Some were concerned about the toll-bridge section but there is nothing we can do about that. We are now in a position to apply for Planning Permission - at last!

Oxford ECI – [New research from the Environmental Change Institute](#) and collaborators at several other institutions provides compelling evidence that meeting the global warming target of 1.5°C may not be enough to limit the damage caused by extreme weather.

Electric Car Sharing in Woodstock – At the Joint Town and Palace meeting held 21 May (open to the public), Blenheim made an exciting announcement that they would be piloting an electric car sharing scheme. They will pilot the scheme with their staff at first to establish how things might work in practice and to highlight any issues, followed by a further pilot with a few Woodstock residents, and if successful it will be rolled out. This will help those who might only want the occasional use of a car, those who prefer not to own, insure and maintain a car year-round or those who wish to try an electric car, etc. (Sust.Woodstock News 6.18)

Woodstock again – in June Woodstock Town Council resolved unanimously to encourage and support action towards making Woodstock a single-use plastic free town. One of their first actions was to lead by example by removing single-use plastic within WTC premises when practical. Well done Woodstock!

Your business – can apply for a free energy audit online on the [OxFutures website](#).

[The Community Energy Fund](#) has launched and has already attracted over £100,000 in investment. It has been great to see such enthusiasm for the new opportunity to support renewable energy. There's still time to invest as the Low Carbon Hub Fund (interest 4-5%) is open until **midnight, 31 July**. (Low Carbon Hub 6.18)

CAG HQ says – CAG groups are doing brilliant work to help people reduce their plastic waste. From SESI to Cultivate, Low Carbon Oxford North to Sustainable Wantage. Check out our [article on how to reduce plastic waste](#) in Oxford this July and help spread the word on social media and get people involved."

National News

Onshore Wind Power 10-10 say: "The government has banned new onshore wind in England - putting our national action on climate change at risk and rejecting one of the public's favourite types of energy. Meanwhile, **fossil fuels like fracking are being forced through the system - even when communities say no**. It's time to [send the government an urgent message](#) about the future we want".

Heathrow - After years of fighting and campaigning from environmental activists and local residents, a third runway at Heathrow is once again back on the cards. As Caroline Lucas says 'this would be a disaster for climate change and the environmental movement' and we

all need to work together to stop this going ahead. [Add your voice to the no campaign.](#)
(The Key 28.6.18)

The population of England is expected to grow by three million people by 2026, according to the latest release from the Office of National Statistics. Several sexual health clinics face closure or reduced services due to planned cuts to spending in almost half of England's councils. Many said they would make up for the cuts through efficiencies. However 16 out of 151 councils said the cuts would lead to reduced services or closure. If we are to curb population, these clinics are **vital!** (Population Matters Members' Update 6.18)

Relocalising food One of the positive aspects of Britain's departure from the EU is that it has sparked off a [debate on the future of UK farming](#), requiring us to question fundamental assumptions. Should we see food as a commodity for export, or to feed ourselves? What counts as a public good? And can we restructure our food system in a way that meets more of our needs – nutritional, social and cultural?" ...and Climate!!

A holiday may account for 30% of your annual carbon footprint! Travelling from London to Paris on the Eurostar emits 0.9 kg CO₂ per person, compared to **58kg CO₂ pp** by plane. <https://www.carbonfootprint.com>

International News

China is now the largest investor in renewable energy – sinking \$126.6 billion into the industry in 2017, a 30% increase on the prior year. By 2020, China hopes to be generating 110 gigawatts of solar power — enough to power more than 30 million homes — as part of an ambitious plan to cut carbon emissions. China's shift away from coal and other fossil fuels has accelerated in the last decade, and in the past several years, the country has developed several massive solar farms, [some even in the shape of pandas!](#) (The Key 6.18)

Estonia is improving the physical experience of being a citizen by offering [free public transportation](#). After providing free public transportation for five years in the capital city of Tallinn, the Estonian government is ready to expand the service to the entire country....good for emissions and pollution!

At 'Fund Forum International', the world's largest asset-management conference, [Jeremy Leggett gave an optimistic talk](#) about climate change and the opportunities and threats to investment management. He said 'Oil and gas companies know they are in trouble. All have taken out hedge bets by buying clean-energy assets. Shareholders currently pressuring fossil-fuel groups to face up to climate risk have been clear that their ultimate sanction, if unsatisfied with progress, is to divest. Many already have.' Will money do what

common sense and concern for future generations has failed to do?

New Books

[*The World We Made*](#) by Jonathan Porritt. Here he is [speaking as time-traveller Alex McKay from 2050](#), describing his society from the future. 'Jonathon Porritt's book dreams big, as if our future depends on it. And it does.' - Richard Branson.

GreenTEA Events

4 August: **GreenTEA Café** at The Emporium 32-34 Mill St., Eynsham OX29 4JS 10.30am - 12noon

29 September: **GreenTEA Festival** Eynsham Village Hall, Back Lane, Eynsham OX29 4QW 12pm - 4pm

Other Events

17 July: [Low Carbon Hub - Open House](#) Share Offer, Wine...

31 July: [Night Time Safari](#) - Earth Trust, near Didcot, 7.30pm-9.30pm

September - Modern Art Oxford exhibition 'Climate Change, 30 Pembroke St., Oxford. Watch this space: <https://www.modernartoxford.org.uk/events/>