

# GreenTEA 'Monthly Brew' 8.17

## GreenTEA News

**New Website** - Thanks to much wizardry from Lucy and Joan, the new website is up and running! The latest development is access to The Brew - a very useful link for friends, relations and website visitors.

<http://eynsham-pc.gov.uk/GreenTEA>

**Visit** - on Sat 5th a group of five from GreenTEA visited Barracks Lane Community Garden, Cowley where we found a great welcome to a pleasant garden designed for members of the local community to use as their own. Half a dozen small children were there with their parents and many facilities like an eco-cabin with stove, an open kitchen, barbecues and a 'compost loo' had been provided from generous grants. Over a 'cuppa' Sue discussed ways and means with founder member, Helen Osborn, with the Peace Orchard in mind...

**Peace Orchard** - working parties will resume on Sun Sep 3rd and monthly thereafter on the first Sunday of the month. The redoubtable Ray and James will have plenty of jobs for us to do! Hope to see you there! See below.

**Book discussion group** - last night waded into 'Drawdown, The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming' edited by Paul Hawken. The group agreed with the brilliant reviews that this is an inspirational and optimistic review of the many avenues to salvation ranging from energy generation and saving through education of women to bio-friendly farming and indigenous people's land management. Thoroughly recommended!! Next time, for a change, we will watch a short childrens' film, 'Lorax', about climate change.

## Local News

**Bikesafe - Oxford .... "Cycling City" ?? .... er.... how about a cycle path or two?? B4044 .....**

<https://www.oxford.gov.uk/news>

**Transition Town Oxford?** - after the demise, a few years ago, of the original Transition Oxford, I discovered, at the Cape of Good Hope (Pub - 'GreenDrinks'), a move towards establishing a new one... From an optimistic place, watch this space!

**£3.2m for Green Economic Development !** - The **Low Carbon Hub** has led a winning bid for European Regional Development funding that will be used to foster low carbon economic development in Oxfordshire. **OxFutures** aims to increase renewable energy generation by facilitating the sharing of knowledge. It will work with academics, local authorities and small / medium enterprises (SMEs) and encourage networking between SMEs. It will also offer grants for new products, new start-ups and energy-efficiency measures.

(Sust. Wantage News 8.17)

## National News

**Business and Energy Secretary Greg Clark** - announced in a keynote speech on the Industrial Strategy, the launch of the £246 million Faraday Challenge to boost expertise in battery technology. Over a quarter of the UK's electricity is being generated through renewables such as wind and solar, much of it located close to homes and businesses. New technologies that help store and manage energy are emerging and the costs are falling..... good news if they can keep it up! <https://www.gov.uk/government/>

**Forum for the Future**, with Friends Provident Foundation, has launched the new report "Insights from energy industry and political leaders on the rapidly changing UK energy system". The report explores the pace of change in the UK energy system and urges the energy industry to embrace the transition. See pdf file in email.

**Cycling improves air quality** - 'British Cycling' reports that cordoning off town centres for cycling events drastically cuts local air pollution: on 2 July, levels of nitrogen oxide and nitrogen dioxide fell by around 75% during the HSBC UK City Ride events. It seems that giving priority to cycling infrastructure would make our cities greener and healthier places to live. (via LCON News 7.17)

**Nottingham goes poo-powered!** - "30 poo-powered buses are hitting the road in Nottingham this summer. The buses are powered using gas produced by food waste and sewage. Each bus will reduce emissions up to 84% compared to their dirty diesel cousins. The 30-strong fleet is the biggest biogas powered bus fleet in the world!" (10-10)

**Go with the wind!** - Onshore windfarms could be built in the UK for the same cost as new gas power stations and would be nearly half as expensive as the Hinckley PointC nuclear plant, according to leading engineering consultant Arup. <https://www.theguardian.com/>

**Soil plays an important role in fighting climate change.** 1.3 million tonnes more carbon could be stored in UK soil every year if all our farmland was managed organically. This is equivalent to the emissions saved by taking nearly 1 million cars off the road! <https://www.soilassociation.org/>

**Air pollution and Climate Change** - [Friends of the Earth](#) argue that by announcing changes for 23 years' time the government has shown it isn't serious about taking meaningful action on air pollution now.

**Fuel Poverty** - According to a 2016 report, published by charity National Energy Action, a child born in Britain today may never see fuel poverty eradicated. Despite efforts to tackle fuel poverty like the Green Deal and the Energy Company Obligation (2013), a significant proportion of the UK's population is still struggling to afford energy. Accordingly a symposium, 'Tackling Fuel Poverty' has been arranged by 'Public Policy Exchange' in London on Dec 7th. Details below.

## International News

**Sweden Divests** - The big hitting Swedish pension fund, AP7, announced last week that it had divested all its investments in six separate companies that it says had violated the Paris Climate Agreement. These companies included big names such as ExxonMobil, Gazprom and TransCanada. That means there are now 3.5 million Swedes whose retirement won't be funded by climate crime.

**France's new president** - Emmanuel Macron, has revealed his plan to get France on the road to a clean, green future. As well as banning petrol and diesel vehicles by 2040, France will also quit burning coal after 2022. Merci, Macron! <http://www.independent.co.uk/environment/>

**Is it OK to be honest about climate change?** - The New York Times Magazine published an apocalyptic article about climate change earlier this month, entitled 'The Uninhabitable Earth'. It begins, starkly, 'It is, I promise, worse than you think'..... Interesting stuff. Are we perhaps as a society developing more capacity to face the inconvenient truths? <http://nymag.com/> (patience for link!). (via LCON news 7.17)

**South Miami solar panels** - A new law, which was passed with a four to one majority, makes it a legal requirement that all new homes must have solar power. With this move, Florida is truly living up to it's nickname - the sunshine state! <http://www.miamiherald.com/>

**New Books** - Just discovered: this eye-opening blog by Malcolm Potts: <http://blogs.berkeley.edu/2015/>

## GreenTEA Events

Sep 2nd **GreenTEA Café** at The Emporium 32-34 Mill St., Eynsham OX29 4JS 10.30am-12noon.

Sep 3rd **Peace Orchard Working Party**, Newland St, Eynsham. Tanner Lane entrance 11am-1pm

Oct 7th **Swap Shop** Sports Pavilion, 1 Oxford Road, OX29 4HG 10am-11.30am

Oct 14th **GreenTEA Festival** - Apples&MuchMore! Village Hall, 46 Back Lane, OX29 4QW 2pm-4.30pm

## Other Events

Aug 20th 'Reframing Environmentalism' a debate. Birkbeck, Univ.of London. <mailto:consenteduk@gmail.com>

Sep 10th **10K Run** Earth Trust, Little Wittenham OX14 4QZ 11am <http://www.earthtrust.org.uk/>

Dec 7th Symposium 'Tackling Fuel Poverty' 10.15am-4.30pm <http://www.publicpolicyexchange.co.uk/events>





