

GreenTEA 'Monthly Brew' 9.17

GreenTEA News

Swap Shop - A reminder for Sat Oct 7th. Please sort our your unwanted 'stuff' including clothes, household items, tools, DVDs, books, toys etc. and bring them before 11am if possible. Large items by card on the board. No televisions, computers etc please. Helpers from 9am. Venue below.

GreenTEA Festival - on Sat Oct 14th. Formerly the Apple Festival, it has been renamed to highlight the addition of stalls from all our working groups: Waste, Energy, Food/Orchard, Transport and 'Hearts&Minds'. The usual children's games, food tastings, apple identification etc. will be available as well. Venue below.

Thermal Imaging - the Energy Group have decided to continue the Thermal Imaging programme for another winter. They are looking for volunteers please to learn this intriguing skill which contributes greatly to our climate change measures for the Eynsham area. This could be the answer to your question "what can I do?". Contact Andy: <mailto:andyswarbs@gmail.com>

Peace Orchard - the working party for Sun Sept 3rd had to be cancelled because many were still away on holiday. We trust they will be back with exceptional energy for the next WP on Sun Oct 1st! Venue below.

Dilution of resolve - The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was formulated in 2012 to form a framework and guidelines for the nation to plan for its needs with regard to housing, energy and transport in the light of population, climate change, the economy etc. Local Plans followed suit but unfortunately seem to have watered down the mandate so that 'requirement' has become 'encouragement', 'should' has become 'might', thus responsibilities have been wriggled out of, so that substandard work may be condoned. GreenTEA has written to our MP, Robert Courts, and to District Cllr Emery with these observations, asking for their parties' support in restoring the original resolve. Cllr Emery's reply is attached to The Brew email, along with our original letter to both.

Local News

Bikesafe - Following the tree survey earlier this year, the civil engineers, tree specialists and our planning advisers are due to get together to agree the most practicable route through Stroud Copse - watch this space!

'An Inconvenient Sequel' - Al Gore's follow up to the original after 11 years. With mixed reviews it should still be well worth seeing at The Ultimate Picture Palace, Cowley Road, Oxford <http://www.uppcinema.com>

Transition Town Oxford? - Richard Luff and Antony Melville are hoping to meet with Alice and Kerry at CAG on 20th Sept. to set up a programme of meetings (mostly with the existing network). Keep watching....

'Sustaining Ourselves' - A taster evening followed by a one day workshop for people who want to learn healthier and more effective ways of working together and looking after themselves. You are welcome to attend one or both workshops. Venue central Oxford, fully accessible. You can expect to:

1. Learn ways for working with others supportively and effectively.
2. Practice skills for looking after yourself in difficult times.
3. Connect with others who care about these issues, building solidarity, support and inspiration.

The workshops will be facilitated by Kathryn Tulip and Jo Hamilton tel. (07941 135 664) **Details below:**

'Environment and Palestine' - Prof. Mazin Qumsiyeh, a director of the Palestine Institute for Biodiversity and Sustainability at Bethlehem University, and a passionate speaker for environmental and social justice, will speak on Sat 28th Oct at the West Oxford Community Centre, Botley Rd., 4pm mailto:orfa_info@yahoo.co.uk

National News

Scotland's going great guns! - Scotland's [last coal energy plant](#) — Longannet Power Station — was shut down in March. As the largest coal plant in Europe, Longannet was responsible for more than a fifth of Scotland's carbon emissions. The country is now coal-free, and making great strides towards forging a renewable and sustainable future for the UK. (Global Citizen News 9.17)

Read more: [Wind Energy Powered All of Scotland's Households for Six Months](#)

And ... Scotland's biggest solar park - just got the green light. Clear skies and longer daylight hours make Urquhart in northern Scotland the perfect spot for 80,000 solar panels. They will power 3,500 homes, and there will be room for sheep to graze around the panels too. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/> (10-10)

Huge Strides! - Lower subsidies for new turbines illustrate the huge strides being made off British shores as a result of the lower costs of wind turbines. <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/> (The Times 11.9.17)

Local Authority Support - Community energy projects are more effective when provided with support from local authorities. Despite diminishing budgets and resources, local authorities still have the scale, credibility and administrative skill to support the drive, innovation and opportunities exhibited from local community energy organisations and together they can face and overcome some of the demands, challenges and barriers they are both facing. (CEE News 8.17)

Fossil Fuel Divestment - A [third of UK universities have now made a fossil fuel divestment pledge](#). The movement to end fossil fuel investments is growing with the total value of funds being withdrawn by higher education institutions globally reaching £80 billion. A study by Oxford University researchers suggests that [no new CO₂ emitting electricity infrastructure can be built after this year, if warming is to stay within a 2°C target](#), unless other electricity infrastructure is retired early or retrofitted with carbon capture technologies.

WOW! - The UK's largest electric vehicle-[charging network switched to 100% renewable energy](#) last month.

International News

Pakistani province plants 1bn trees in two years! - The forests of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, north-west Pakistan, have suffered from decades of felling and natural disasters. The new trees have been planted ahead of schedule and have a 70-90% survival rate - one of the highest in the world. They will help sustain the river banks and tackle climate change. <http://www.independent.co.uk/> (10-10)

Wicked!! - A campaign to plant enough trees to offset Donald Trump's climate policies is underway in the USA. Organisers hope to plant **10bn trees** by 24 December 2017, with the last one being a Christmas tree planted in front of the White House... and the name?..... **Trump Forest!!** <https://www.theguardian.com>

UK Government please govern Carbon! - Lord Oxburgh, ex president of UK's Carbon Capture and Storage Association (CCSA), has recounted his immense frustration at the continued failure of the UK parliament to reach consensus on CCS, to always leave it to the next administration, and to keep cutting funding and making policy u-turns. In contrast Norway has set up a state enterprise, Gassnova, with the sole purpose of coordinating efforts and seeing CCS realised in the country. **Come on UK!** (The Chemical Engineer No.915)

Outrageous - The International Energy Agency reports in excess of four times more in subsidies for fossil fuels than for renewables: \$490 billion compared to \$112 billion in 2014. This is true even in the G20 of richer nations, where \$71 billion per year went to fossil-fuel subsidies between 2013 and 2015, and \$18 billion to renewables. <https://www.ft.com/>

New Books: 'The Test' by Jeremy Leggett, an ongoing book to follow while he's writing it! ... "Leggett brings us another vibrant, first-hand account of the continuing struggle for energy revolution, showing how the tipping point away from fossil fuels has clearly been reached, but that much effort is still required for even simple tasks like ridding Africa of the kerosene lamp." Ashley Seager, former Economics Correspondent of The Guardian. To request instalments, email Jeremy at <mailto:jeremy.leggett@solarcentury.com>

GreenTEA Events

Oct 1st **Peace Orchard Working Party**, Newland St, Eynsham. Tanner Lane entrance 11am-1pm

Oct 7th **GreenTEA Café** at **The Sports Pavilion**, 1 Oxford Rd., Eynsham, OX29 4HG 10-11.30am

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

Sep 23rd **'An Inconvenient Sequel'** by Al Gore at The Ultimate Picture Palace, Cowley Rd., Oxford 18.45

Sep 26th **'Sustaining Ourselves'** - Oxford 7-9.30pm Book by 19th Sep at: <mailto:sustainingourselves101@gmail.com>

Oct 28th **'Environment and Palestine'** West Oxford Community Centre, Botley Rd., OX2 0BT 4pm

Nov 11th CAG Network **Skillshare Day** County Hall Oxford 10am - for your diaries! <http://cagoxfordshire.org.uk>

