

For the latest news and more information, please see our website

This is the first of our new-style monthly Sustainable Blewbury Newsletters. We are aiming at a short Newsletter: one or perhaps two one-page articles, information about local events and a few links to things of interest.

LOCAL EVENTS

Apple juicing 2017

We have already had three very successful sessions for turning your surplus apples into some of the best tasting juice you've ever tasted, and we have three more to go:



Sunday 8th October, 2pm – 4pm: Blewbury Manor Stable

Sunday 22nd October, 12pm – 3pm: Apple Day at the Red Lion, with a VPA plant and cake stall

Sunday 5th November, 11am – 1pm: Blewbury Manor Stable



Bring your (washed) apples & clean glass screw-top wine bottles if you want to pasteurise your juice. If you want to freeze it or drink it straight away bring clean plastic containers. £1 per pressing (large basket of apples) Pasteurising 30p per bottle (keeps for up to a year) *And bring the family too – children are very welcome. They enjoy seeing how apple juice is made and helping make their own juice.*

If you have a lot of apples, you may prefer to hire our equipment to use at home.

See the Sustainable Blewbury website [events page](#) for full details.

Blewbury Garden Market

The BGM is at Blewbury Service Station every Saturday morning from 9.30 to 11.30 am. We have fresh garden fruit and veg, home-made jam, bread and pastries, and other things for sale, all locally produced. And if you've got stuff we can sell for you please bring it along (if possible by 9.30). **The last BGM at the garage for this year will be on October 14th.**

BUT we will again have **Garden Market Extra** running through the autumn, winter and early spring at the **Post Office**, with bread and cakes on Saturday mornings, jam and occasional produce all week. So you can buy and sell produce etc all year round. The jam is particularly popular.

“Climate Change: Growing Elephant, Shrinking Room”

A talk by Prof. Eric Eisenhandler – **Monday 30th October, 8pm, Blewbury Manor Barn**. Up-to-date information about climate change and the improving outlook for renewable energy. Tickets are £6 (including a glass of wine) from the Post Office.

There's been a lot about climate change in the news lately, mainly due to extreme weather. But the news stories don't really explain very much and often contain misleading statements. And in the UK our politicians seem to have lost interest in climate change and are back to discussing shorter term issues like Brexit.

Eric's talk will cover global warming and climate change basics and recent developments. He will then talk about renewable energy, including progress in dealing with intermittent energy sources, notably wind and solar, and briefly summarise the situation in the UK.



- If you would like to read some evidence of climate change on an international scale, read this article from the Guardian of 11 September 2017: bit.ly/2eYVOSy. The author, journalist Bill McKibben, examines the weather of a single continent over the single week leading up to 11th September, and discusses what could have been done to reduce the effects.

- If you use i-Player, do watch the first of Simon Reeves' 3-part series "Russia with Simon Reeve". It includes quite a bit about the effects of the warming climate on the human and the animal inhabitants of Siberia, including towards the end the effect of temperature rise on the frozen ground, the tundra. It is alarming to say the least.
- And Remarkable Pendragon's weekly blog: blog.remarkablegroup.co.uk/pendragon The blog is an "ENERGY & INFRASTRUCTURE WEEKLY NEWS ROUNDUP" on large-scale UK energy projects and problems, looking at their interactions with communities, ranging on 2nd October from "Sadiq Khan triggers alert for high air pollution in London" to "UK could rescue energy efficient homes policy with a few key steps"

Finally, the promised longer feature:

LED light bulbs: now A++ for brilliance

By Eric Eisenhandler

Minimising the effects of climate change has two parts. We hear a lot about renewable energy sources. But we also need to use less energy, a double win because in addition to reducing carbon dioxide emissions this also saves us money.

Low-energy lighting has already had a big effect when it replaced inefficient incandescent light bulbs that are now officially banned for domestic use. In 2006 I replaced all the incandescent bulbs in my house with low-energy ones (technically called CFLs, or compact fluorescent lamps), and my annual electricity consumption dropped by about a third – at 2017 prices a saving of around £200 per year. Nationally, as incandescent bulbs were replaced in the shops by low-energy bulbs the UK's electricity demand dropped significantly. More efficient lighting played a major part in the reduction, which confounded predictions that consumption would rise due to having many more electronic gadgets.



CFL and incandescent bulbs

My low-energy bulbs have worked well, and most of them are still working – they last a lot longer than incandescent bulbs. But CFL technology has drawbacks. They take a short while to come up to full brightness, and although that has improved it can still be annoying. When they were introduced, manufacturers made exaggerated claims about their light output, leading to widespread complaints that they were too dim. For example, an 11 watt bulb was supposed to replace a 60 watt incandescent, but in fact a 15 watt bulb was needed. This problem was eliminated when labels were required to show full and accurate information – at the end of this article there are some notes on understanding light-bulb labels.

A few years ago bulbs using LEDs (light-emitting diodes) appeared. LEDs are tiny, cheap electronic devices that are even more efficient and longer-lasting than low-energy bulbs. Early on, LED lights took over for battery operated lights such as torches and bicycle lights, because even using smaller batteries they work for much longer. The first domestic LED light bulbs were expensive, but prices have been coming down dramatically. And unlike CFLs, they are bright immediately after switching on.

LEDs emit light very directionally, so the first mainstream domestic use was to replace the halogen downlights widely used in kitchens, bathrooms and elsewhere. The light quality is good, they last far longer than halogen bulbs, and they use even less electricity than CFLs. For example, a 50 watt GU10 halogen bulb can be replaced by a 5 to 7 watt LED one.



LED GU10 bulb

Conventionally shaped round LED bulbs appeared later – these use arrays of LEDs to provide light in nearly all directions. The shops are now full of bulbs with energy ratings of A+, and these are already a good replacement for the older low-energy bulbs (CFLs). For example, they replace a 60 watt incandescent with a 9 watt LED bulb instead of a 15 watt CFL. Many LED bulbs have a substantial, opaque base so they don't

provide much light in the direction of the bulb socket, but newer LED filament designs improve on that (see photo).

Even better, some LED bulbs that are even more efficient, rated A++, are appearing. I've just replaced a few 15 watt CFLs with 8 watt LED filament bulbs (equivalent to 75 watt incandescent). The LEDs are brighter than the old CFLs, use just over half the energy, come on instantly and promise to last even longer. So if you are buying light bulbs, see if you can find A++ ones (try online suppliers) – more are appearing all the time.



*Normal LED bulb and
LED filament bulb*

Light bulb labels

In addition to fairly obvious items such as the energy rating, type of base, whether the bulb is clear or frosted, and the predicted lifetime, the labels now give detailed information about the light quality, both in words in numbers. Here are the most crucial items.

Electricity usage (watts, or W): Electric power rating, and how much an equivalent incandescent uses.

Brightness (lumens): Allows you to compare how much light is produced and how much energy is used. You want more lumens or fewer watts. For example, a 60 watt incandescent produces about 800–850 lumens. To match that a low-energy bulb (CFL) of about 15 watts is needed, an A+ LED would use about 9 watts and an A++ LED about 7 watts.

Colour temperature (kelvins, or K): What the light colouration is like, both in words and numbers. The usual classes are “daylight” (blue-ish, 5000–6500K), “cool white” (fairly clinical, 4000–5000K), “white” (fairly neutral, about 4000K), “warm white” (similar to a tungsten or halogen bulb, 2700–3000K) and “very warm white” (yellow-ish, 2400–2700K). For most domestic use, warm white or perhaps white are to be recommended.

Directional coverage (degrees): LED bulbs with a big, opaque base might only cover 180°–220°, while a good LED filament bulb can cover 330° (360° is all directions).