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REPAIR CAFE, SUN. 19 NOV., 2 TO 4 PM, VILLAGE HALL

Bring your knives to be sharpened, bikes to be fixed or household and electrical items to be mended for free. Refreshments will be on sale. Donations to cover the cost of the hall welcome. We are also looking for volunteers to help set out the tables beforehand and to clear away afterwards.

Contact Jo Lakeland 07773 242472 for more information

TALK: "SAVING OUR LOCAL WILDLIFE", MON. 20 NOV., 8.00 PM, VALE ROOM, VILLAGE HALL

Oxfordshire Wildlife Rescue (OWR) is an award-winning wildlife charity that rescues, cares, and recuperates sick, injured and orphaned wild animals throughout Oxfordshire and Berkshire. It has a centre on Woodway Road in Blewbury

Tiny mice, foxes, owls, swans, hedgehogs, and deer are just some of the wild creatures that are nursed back to health by OWR. The charity works with veterinary professionals to care for and rehabilitate its patients, aiming to always release them back to the wild where possible.

Luke Waclawek, founder and CEO will tell us about the specialist techniques and practices his team have developed for a wide variety of different species. He'll advise us on what to do if we find a sick or injured animal, open our eyes to the huge variety of creatures that make their homes around us, and talk through the specific vulnerabilities of these animals and birds.

Tickets £6, including a drink, available at the Post Office or on the door.

Anne Millman

ANNUAL LEAF CLEAR-UP, SUN. 3 DEC. ,2.00 TO 3.30 PM

Meet at the PlayClose at 2.00 pm to help clear our footpaths of leaves. Bring your own gloves, rakes, and wheelbarrows if you have them. Bags will be provided and information about where you can put bags of leaves for collection. If you would like to have leaves delivered to your door for composting, ring 01235 850490. Bring your family and friends for an afternoon of fun!

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Jo Lakeland

ARTICLES

Blewbury Nature Reserve update

We have now signed the lease for the site with Thames Water. Like all legal matters, this seems to have taken a long time. It means we are responsible for managing the site for 10 years and



watching it develop into what we hope will be a place of increased biodiversity. Alec Latham did a plant survey recently and recorded 69 species. It will be interesting to see how this number increases over the coming years. Thanks to Martin Latham for initiating this and to Alec for his time and diligence. A few lizards and one grass snake have been seen this summer; hopefully these will increase too.

Thank you to everyone who has come this summer to help maintain the paths and mulch the trees (Sean Morris is featured in the photo). Part of the

volunteering experience is meeting other people. Last time, on 14 October, we enjoyed a coffee break in the sunshine on the 'Dinosaur' (see photo). We have been strimming this area all year and are now seeing grass instead of nettles in some places. It may take a while for the whole sitting area to become nettle-free but this is our aim, doing it physically rather than chemically.

The pond and wet areas are filling up with water nicely now that the summer is past. We hope that this will attract some water-loving birds to the area, and more than mallards! The bird-watching events were very successful earlier in the year and we hope to repeat them in the spring. Watch the Blewbury Bulletin and the Notice Board at the reserve for more information.



Thames Water are currently doing the art-work for the two information boards at the reserve which will show what species we can expect to see at the two locations where they are situated.

We are having two more volunteering days soon: Sat. 11 Nov. and Sat. 9 Dec. from 10 am to noon to do more work in clearing around the hedging that was planted last winter. We also hope to strim a new pathway, improve the gateway and level out the path over to the Orchard area. If you would like to volunteer to help and aren't on our volunteer mailing list already, email:

secretary@sustainable-blewbury.org.uk

Jane Kinniburgh

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Progress on Blewbury's new woodland, Quaker Wood

Plans for the Quaker Woodland site continue to progress and we are very confident that this project will soon be a welcome addition to the Blewbury landscape and amenities. There have been delays in the process and, realistically, we are now looking at planting in autumn 2024 and will be using the spring and summer of next year to prepare the site. A number of surveys of the field have been completed and, to make sure we are compliant with all guidelines, we plan to have a badger survey carried out (there are a number of setts along one boundary), so that we abide by sensible countryside guidelines regarding their disturbance. We shall be applying for grants to cover the costs of the wood and must ensure that we comply with all best advice.

Several people have kindly offered saplings and trees for eventual planting on the site. We cannot use them yet so please look after them yourselves for a while longer. No doubt they will be

welcome in due course, either for the woodland areas on the site or for the hedge which we plan to replace the barbed wire fence along the western boundary.

John Ogden

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Apple juicing 2023



We organised five public sessions this year for everyone to come and juice their apples. We made dozens of bottles and pasteurised about half of them.

Five groups of people also hired our equipment to use privately and it was not only apples that they were juicing: grapes have been done in large quantities and someone has made a lot of cider!

Many thanks to all the people who have helped at the events this year and to Andy Evason who has allowed us to use the Manor as our site for the juicing.

There is more information and photos, on the Food and Farming page on our website: sustainable-blewbury.org.uk/food.htm.

Eric Eisenhandler

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Organisational matters

Now that we are a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (number 1203308), we are getting ourselves organised in ways that the Charity Commission expect. We are writing various policies and procedures such as a handbook for volunteers. We are looking for some help with keeping our website up to date and improving it as well as with our routine communications (such as compiling and presenting the newsletter). If you think you could volunteer a few hours a month too do this, please contact secretary@sustainable-blewbury.org.uk or ring Jane Kinniburgh 01235 850341 for a chat. We are also looking for new Trustees to complement the existing seven. If you are willing to help organise events and be involved in Sustainable Blewbury by serving as a Trustee, also contact the secretary.

We are pleased to report that Blewbury Garden Market (BGM), formerly part of SB and now independent, hopes to continue next year. You may remember that the Charity Commission advised us that it could not be part of Sustainable Blewbury now that we are a charity. A group of the volunteers who have run the Garden Market met together to decide how to organise themselves in future and several people have come forward to serve in the various roles. We will not be able to advertise when they start again next year so watch out in the Blewbury Bulletin. Good news and good luck!

Jane Kinniburgh

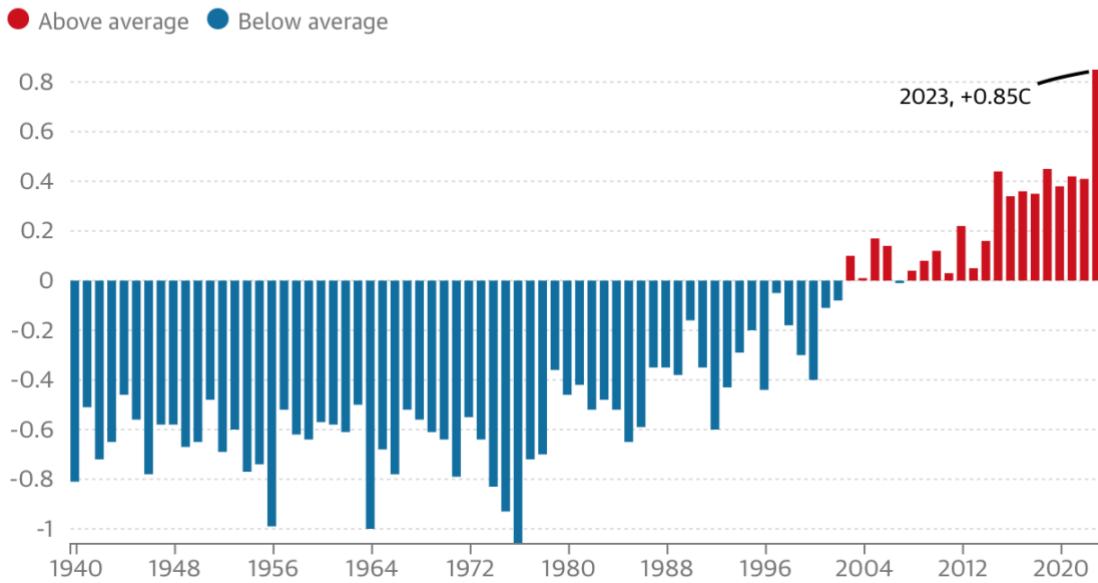
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Climate Crisis

Scientists are saying that 2023 is on track to be the hottest year on record. Last month was the hottest October since records began, with average global temperature estimated to be 1.7°C above late-1800s levels.

October 2023 was the warmest October on record

Showing the global surface air temperature anomaly for each October from 1940 to 2023. The temperature anomaly is the difference between the temperature for a given month and the average from 1991 to 2020



Source: Guardian, Ajit Niranjana, Wed. 8 Nov. 2023

Recently Scotland was hit by really bad floods when a month's worth of rainfall fell in 36 hours. Homes were destroyed and roads and train tracks were flooded — making it almost impossible to leave the area. And other parts of the country have been hit even harder since then, with devastating and sometimes deadly consequences.

As the climate crisis gets worse, we will see more and more extreme weather like this. That's a fact. So what are our leaders doing to tackle the climate crisis? Well, just as the country was preparing for yet another storm — the Government announced that they were granting 27 new oil and gas licences in the North Sea. However, companies are not obliged to supply the UK with oil and gas extracted from the North Sea, meaning Britain could still face energy shortages even if the licences were granted.

It's clear that we must do all we can to stop fossil fuel giants (and the Governments and organisations that support them) from polluting our planet. Far better for the government to boost energy security by encouraging home insulation and homegrown renewables.

Not only is the Government failing to tackle this crisis. They are actively making it worse. Homes, livelihoods and futures are being wrecked — while BP and Shell continue to make billions from the destruction. We need to demand clean, renewable, affordable energy available to all. Together, we can push for a world fuelled by the wind and the sun — and people power.

Sources: Guardian, 350.org, Jo Lakeland

COP28

COP28 is the United Nations Climate Change conference happening in the United Arab Emirates, from 30 November to 12 December 2023. It is the 28th meeting of the Conference of Parties on Climate Change. Climate Scientists agree that the sense of urgency for ambitious climate action going into Cop28 has never been higher.

There will be discussions, presentations and negotiations across a wide range of topics involving people from governments, businesses, communities and faith-based organisations. Climate change affects many areas of the lives of people all over the world, such as health,



trade, energy, transport, buildings, food, education, young people, land, and nature, and these themes will be discussed throughout the fortnight.

But cutting across all these themes, and the ultimate purpose of discussing these issues are four important outcomes which we need to see:

- • cutting emissions to limit the rise in global temperatures to 1.5°C.
- • making sure there is the money available to make the changes needed and to support countries already facing irreversible loss and damage.
- • putting nature, people, lives and livelihoods at the heart of climate action.
- • making sure everyone's voices are included, especially those who are not usually heard.

It is a global conference dealing with a global problem.

Source: Church of England, Environment and climate change, Jo Lakeland

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Ashden Awards ceremony 2023

I have to admit that Ashden: Climate Solutions in Action is my favourite charity, and I have supported them for more than 30 years. I admire what they do, and the way they do it. Their mission is to accelerate transformative climate solutions and build a more just world. Ashden is a charity that boosts climate innovation in the UK and Global South. Their support brings clean energy to villages and refugee camps, and it also fixes up cold and draughty homes in the UK. It makes schools more sustainable, and helps communities protect and restore the nature around them.

They give awards and grants. They connect innovators with new partners, and they work with funders and policymakers to influence, inspire and raise ambition. Ashden supports good green jobs, better health and fairer societies.

Some finalists for their ceremony taking place on 14 Nov, 6-10pm are:

Tepeo: a UK winner for Energy Innovation

Heat your home, not the planet. The future of heating is clean, green and affordable. Our award winning Zero Emission Boiler (ZEB®) is revolutionising how we heat our homes.

The ZEB is powered by electricity and works like a battery to store energy as heat until it is needed. Electric heating elements charge up a "core" inside the ZEB – storing a lot of energy in a small footprint. This patented heat-management technology then cleverly releases the heat to your radiators, underfloor heating and water tank when your thermostat calls for it.



Usafi green energy, Kenya: Winner of the Ashden Award for Powering Refugees and Displaced People

"Through support from various organizations to set up a factory in Kakuma town and Thika town, Usafi green energy commenced production of clean fuel "Briquettes" and clean cookstoves in our brand "Silver Bora". So far we have sold over 15,000 cookstoves and over 110 tonnes of Briquettes to both domestic and industries in Kenya and refugees camps." The 2023 Ashden Awards take place on Tuesday 14 November 2023, from 6–10 pm at the Royal Geographic Society. Live tickets are almost sold out, but you can register for the livestream by going to the website <http://ashden.org/> Ashden's current strategic focus is green jobs, skills and livelihoods – which have the potential to accelerate climate action around them. **The 2023 Finalists:** <http://ashden.org/2023>



Jo Lakeland

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*The Sustainable Blewbury Newsletter is edited by Eric Eisenhandler, Jo Lakeland
and Jane Kinniburgh*

Opinions expressed are the authors' own.

We would be delighted to include more articles written by others in this newsletter.

*We have a wide-ranging and expanding programme of activities in and around the village.
Participating is fun and can make positive contributions to village life and to our local
environment as well as assisting in the fight against global climate change.*

*If you have any comments on this newsletter, email:
secretary@sustainable-blewbury.org.uk*