

How did you keep warm this winter?

Last year it was floods, this year high winds, next year who knows? Whichever way it goes it can be hard to keep warm at this time of year. And with changes in the climate likely to lead to even more unpredictable weather in the future, it's worth thinking about how to make our homes feel more cosy, whatever the winter brings.

This means dealing with draughts - most people's No. 1 offender when it comes to thermal comfort. Even if a room is warm, add a draught and it feels distinctly chilly. It's easy to forget some time-honoured solutions.



Pets are not the best draught-excluders, but can be better than nothing!

Draught-excluding sausage dogs haven't lost any of their usefulness. And **thermally lined curtains** are great at trapping cold air and keeping heat inside the room. Talking of curtains - draped over radiators they steer warmth straight out of the window: put a shelf above the radiator and arrange your curtains to sit on top of it, and you'll feel the difference.

Living in a cold home is linked to a number of health problems. So, like the proverbial apple, keeping warm in winter can help to keep the doctor away too.

For hard-to-heat homes, there are some traditional cost-free ways of staying healthy. How many of us remember being yelled at as children, to put on an **extra jumper**, and **shut the door? Thick socks** or snugly

slippers make the coldest of kitchen floors feel warm. Stick a **hot water bottle** in your bed fifteen minutes before bedtime, and you'll feel toasty on the coldest of nights.

For the home comfort enthusiast there are many other options, from **covering windows with cling film** in winter to fitting **double or secondary glazing**, as well as **loft, under floor and wall insulation**. There are a number of funding schemes to make some of these measures more affordable.

For more information on how to keep warm this winter

...and to find out if you might be eligible for funding please contact:

Oxford Home Improvement Agency: (01865) 249811 www.oxford.gov.uk

Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB): (01865) 304103 www.caox.org.uk/oxford

Affordable Warmth Helpline: 0800 1070044 Mon-Fri 9am-5pm, www.usea.org.uk/AffordableWarmth or email: amn@nef.org.uk

Do you have a top tip for keeping warm in winter?

Send us suggestions and we'll publish the best ones on our site: oxoneek.org.uk

Planning our Neighbourhoods

All residents in Summertown and St Margaret's wards have been sent a leaflet from the Neighbourhood Forum with the invitation to 'Have your Say' about future developments in the area.

The leaflet describes how 'powerful trends are driving change' in our area. Chief among these are the increased pressure on housing and transport. Included is an important questionnaire covering a wide range of proposals on: community and leisure, the environment, housing, retail and transport. Significant developments are already planned, for example those in 333 Banbury Road, Ewert / Diamond Place, Hayfield Rd and Fairfield site at Staverton Road. The questionnaire asks for comments on a wide range of other proposals to protect the area, including:

- policies to prioritise walking, cycling and bus travel over car use
- Summertown - a conservation area?
- protecting all mature trees
- requiring all new building to meet the highest environmental standards
- policies to minimise the impact of climate change.

If you have views on any of the Forum's proposals please contact the Neighbourhood Forum at its website summertownstmargaretsforum.org.uk These policies, if agreed, will help protect our area.

This newsletter is published by **Low Carbon Oxford North (LCON)** run by local people wanting to do their bit for climate change.

If you'd like to know more please contact us by email, on the website, or on Twitter: [@LowCON](https://twitter.com/LowCON) Printed on 100% recycled paper using veg-based inks and renewable energy by OxfordGreenprint.com

North Oxford residents join a world wide campaign

Last September on a beautiful sunny day, the eve of a historic summit on climate change in New York, 50 North Oxford residents of all ages, from babies to grandparents, headed for London to take part in the People's Climate March. They joined 40,000 people in London, 400,000 in New York, and many thousands more across the world, who took to the streets to inspire the world's most powerful leaders to take ambitious action on the climate crisis.

The event brought together climate change activists from all over the country and concluded with televised addresses from activists across the world, including Emma Thompson and Vivienne Westwood. The event ended with a memorable minute's silence - just the distant sound of traffic beyond the huge crowd. For some, joining a march is 'pointless', rarely achieving what is hoped. For others, being part of a national or world wide campaign in the company of friends and neighbours, is a very positive experience, a moment of solidarity and of hope for the future. It's also fun.



LCON members at the People's Climate March, London 2014. Photo: Rebecca Nestor

Summertown resident Catherine Shock said: *'It was so moving that so many people care about the climate. I sincerely hope the government will take some notice.'* There will be more opportunities for North Oxford residents to join the world wide campaign ahead of the next big climate meeting in Paris, December, 2015. Keep in touch with these events via: www.lcon.org.uk

Blazing a solar trail

If 2014 was a good summer - the hottest yet we're told - then 2015 looks to be a good one too. Whatever the sun decides to do, the growth of solar energy across Oxfordshire continues apace.

Large scale solar farms have started to appear after the first success of **Westmill** near Faringdon. **Landmead** in Hanney is already up and running and soon **Yarnton** will be too. **Southfield**, the next major community owned scheme, is still waiting to get permission to go ahead in Charlbury. Meanwhile the **Low Carbon Hub** in Oxford has raised nearly £1.7m to put panels on schools and businesses around the County and is busy installing them.

About
700 Oxford
homes have
solar panels

The results are beginning to claw back the electricity lost when Didcot 'A' power station was demolished in 2013. Nearer to hand in North Oxford, a further roof was clad with panels at the **Cherwell School** and **St Barnabas**

Primary School launched its solar panels in 2014. Next in line is a scheme at **Phil and Jim Primary School** in Waterways. This scheme, expected to cost around £50k, will be raised from local people and will not only provide electricity for the school but will export to the grid. New forms of clean electricity will soon be adding their bit too: **Osney Lock Hydro** is beginning to produce electricity after its long installation and we expect **Abingdon Hydro** soon to be up and running after its share offer. 2015 looks to be the hottest yet!

Quiz! Which of the following statements is NOT true:

- Households in North Oxford use at least 40% more energy in the home than the national average.
- A quarter of heat is lost through draughts and ventilation
- 15% of your electricity bill is wasted through standby
- Most halogen lights may be phased out from 2016

For answer see below. For those of you who enjoy this kind of information and are looking to make your homes more energy efficient, please go to lcon.org.uk. There you will find more details about OXON:EEK - Oxfordshire energy efficiency knowledge - oxoneek.org.uk. This is LCON's newest initiative. We are working to expand this and particularly welcome comments for our 'local experience' section.

Answer: Item 3 is incorrect - more likely 6-8%

Upcoming events

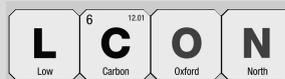
23rd April - **OXWAB and Oxford East Question and Answer (with parliamentary candidates) 'Britain in the World'**, at Oxford Town Hall 7.30 pm

28th April - **Oxford West and Abingdon, Hastings on 'The Environment'**, at Oxford Town Hall 7pm for 7.30.

NB: Please check lcon.org.uk for confirmation of these dates and for other pre election events

7th May - **General Elections**

13 - 21st Jun - **Low Carbon Week** see: lcoweek.org



Taking the CO₂ out of OX2

Join us at: www.LCON.org.uk or email: info@LCON.org.uk

Give us a call: 0790-575-9683

The committee members of LCON are: **Brenda Boardman, Sam Clarke, Sarah Edwards, Julie Gale, Alison Hill, Roosa Leimu-Brown, Rebecca Nestor, Tim Nicholson, Caroline Roaf and Emma Salisbury.**