

# NORTH NORFOLK GREEN NEWS



**This newsletter is an introduction to the North Norfolk Green Party. As a group, we are keen to discuss 'Green' science, news and issues, as well as local, national, and international policy. We want to let you know about ideas, events, and possibilities for all of us to live a healthier, happier life. We want to build a better future for ourselves, our children, and grandchildren. Hope you enjoy!**

## ON THE BUSES (AND TRAINS)

Public transport in the UK continues to be some of the most expensive in Europe. This is particularly the case for commuters, who face extortionate season ticket prices on trains, or cheaper, but impossibly inconvenient, bus travel. Rural North Norfolk experiences this acutely, with a heavy reliance on cars, and as the oldest average constituency in the UK, residents, when no longer able to drive, typically face relocation to towns or the city.

Bus travel isn't currently a viable alternative, despite free bus passes for those above the state pension age. A weekday morning **drive** from Wroxham to Erpingham takes **25 minutes**. A weekday morning **bus** journey along the same route takes **one and a quarter hours**, including a 30 minute walk! Commuting within Norfolk is impracticable on a cost-basis. A season ticket from Sheringham to Norwich costs **£2,224**. For commuters to London from Norwich, this increases to a minimum of **£9,220**. Contrast this with Austria's recent introduction of the **£1000**—year all—you—can—travel 'Klimaticket' (Climate Ticket), this is extortionate. Government policy is clearly broken. A new strategy is needed, ending the lack of active regional competition – Greater Anglia is the only option for travel in Norfolk – along with heavier subsidies.

Having contacted Duncan Baker on this topic, he responded with this: "I think that the Government needs to be ensuring that it remains committed to its decision for us to be using only zero emission road vehicles by 2050. This commitment – melded with its recent pledge to level-up local transport by pumping £7 billion into the improving and 'greenifying' of bus, tram, and rail networks – shows its desire to be a world-leader when it comes to ensuring that local transport meets the needs of the communities it's serving and the future generations hosted by them.

What we need to now be seeing is, firstly, the Government to be delivering on these commitments. More importantly, I want to



**GOOD NEWS!**  
*£3.2million in funding has been secured to introduce 15 electric buses to the network in Norwich.*

be seeing them come to North Norfolk – indeed, the county, more broadly. Secondly, we need to be seeing the expansion of the £2 million Transport Research and Innovation Grant. This is a great scheme which has supported 51 green transport projects across the UK. Thirdly, though related to this point, we need to be pushing for these sorts of initiatives to be promoted in constituencies like North Norfolk – I've been encouraging the development of concepts such as Blue Hydrogen within the constituency. For our transport system to be expansive, affordable, and sustainable, so too does the energy powering it."

Perhaps something along the lines of the 'Klimaticket' would do some good for Norfolk and the entire country; unlimited travel on public transport throughout the UK for a fixed yearly fee, available at concessionary rates for students and others. This recognises the costs private car travel impose on the environment, and encourages mobility for all. In the context of rising petrol prices, it only makes more sense. Regardless, **when a journey from London to Bristol costs £96, while a similar distance on the continent, from Milan to Bologna, costs £16, something isn't right.**

**IF YOU WANT A GREENER, FAIRER, MORE COMPASSIONATE SOCIETY  
THEN DO DIFFERENT AND VOTE GREEN.**

# OUT AND ABOUT

## USEFUL TRANSPORT WEBSITES

**Traveline** Using public transport in North Norfolk is often a challenge but help is at hand from this excellent site. They know the routes and times for all travel in Great Britain by bus, rail, coach, and ferry. <https://www.traveline.info>

**Liftshare** This site wants to make car-sharing as normal as recycling and to fill the 36 million empty seats travelling on our roads every day. <https://liftshare.com/uk>

**Flightfree** Make the pledge to be flight-free for a year or a lifetime. It might feel that your one action doesn't make a difference, but choosing not to fly goes beyond just reducing your own emissions. Our actions have an impact on those around us, meaning that if lots of us do this together, we can change social norms. <https://flightfree.co.uk>



Mike Bossingham, Green Party member and former Mayor of Cromer, with Jessica Peters at the **Sea of Flowers** in Cromer. Jessica not only sells lovely flowers, but also cleaning fluids in reusable glass bottles which you buy on your first purchase. Mike has been a customer for some time and here is refilling his bottle of glass cleaner. You can see more at [www.therosegardencromer.com](http://www.therosegardencromer.com) or [www.fillrefill.co](http://www.fillrefill.co).

## TIPS AND IDEAS

- Ditch those plastic tubes of toothpaste and try tooth tablets or paste in bottles or tins, with the added advantage of there being no annoying hard-to-get bits at the end!
- Try bamboo tooth brushes and interdentals: now available in larger supermarkets and pharmacies as well as online.
- Shampoo and conditioner bars are much easier to find these days, as well as being lighter, and unspillable — great when travelling!
- Sun protection is becoming increasingly necessary as the climate changes. Ideally shade and clothing are our first line of defence, but when sunscreen is necessary, look out for and avoid the following ingredients as they harm sea life: oxybenzone/benzophenone, octinoxate/ethylhexyl methoxycinnamate. Alternatively, make sure they're marked as 'reef-safe'!
- Accept we cannot be perfect and that being plastic-free is difficult. Do what you can, and be kind to yourself.

## READING CORNER

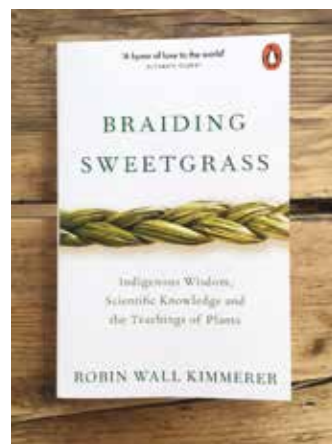
Stephen Green, one of our members, has volunteered to mention some books that have inspired him. He welcomes feedback, and any suggestions for books that have inspired you. Please get in touch at [stephenjgreen99@gmail.com](mailto:stephenjgreen99@gmail.com).

### CRITICAL MASS: TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY IN THE 21ST CENTURY John Whitelegg

Recommended by Chris Melhuish who says, 'Although written in the nineties it's a brilliant critique of all the entrenched ideas of road-building policies'. I guess it's still relevant because we haven't changed! 1997 Pluto Press.

### BRAIDING SWEETGRASS Robin Wall Kimmerer

Recommended by Stephen who says, 'Probably the best book I have ever read, in any genre. The author is Professor in Environmental Biology at the State University of New York and an enrolled member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, and she brings together the academic science with the first nation understanding of our kinship with plants, trees, the earth, and all other life in a beautiful and inspiring read.' 2015 Penguin.



### IT'S ALL UP TO US NOW Alicia Hull

Alicia is a former very active member of North Norfolk Green Party. Recommended by Stephen who says, 'A devastating listing of all the faults in all the systems that have led us to where we are today, with a final chapter calling for citizen's assemblies as the only way out of the mess, as a nation and as a world. ISBN 978-1-9196037-0-4

## JOIN US

IF YOU WANT MORE INFORMATION OR WANT TO GET INVOLVED PLEASE CONTACT US:

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[lizzannedixon@gmail.com](mailto:lizzannedixon@gmail.com) (membership secretary)

IF YOU WANT TO JOIN THE GREEN PARTY:

<https://join.greenparty.org.uk>

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# Green Party