

Wyre Forest Green Alliance Feb newsletter

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Saturday 1st February. Kidderminster Repair Café The Youth House, Bromsgrove Street. Our skilled volunteers will be ready to repair your items at our next Repair Cafe of 2025 from 10am till 1pm. Donations only. If you have garden tools to sharpen ready for Spring, or you've split the seam in your coat, or you have something techy that is doing what it shouldn't, or anything else that needs our attention, bring it down. Please ensure all items are clean, and none contain fuel. See you there!

Monday 3rd February. Green Drinks at Bewdley Rowing Club. "How can we make our homes greener?" All welcome to come along to share ideas and experiences. Join in lively and stimulating conversations and support the bar in an important local institution. The bar is well stocked with locally produced beers and spirits so you will be supporting the local economy! Soft drinks also available!

Tuesday 4th from 7.30-9pm. Wyre Forest XR Bewdley Quaker Meeting House, Lower Park Bewdley, DY12 2DP, with a social gathering afterwards. [See below.](#)

Tuesday 11th February 7.30-9pm Climate Choir at Offmore church, Gray Close, Kidderminster DY10 3YE. [See below.](#) To join our local fortnightly rehearsals, Contact Hilary at hilarymueller@hotmail.com.

Wednesday 12th February 7.0 - 9.0 pm. AGM for Wyre Forest Green Alliance. We hereby give notice of our next AGM which is to be held at St Michaels and All Angels church, Stourport. We have invited all member organisations to **nominate members of the WFGA Steering Group**. Any organisation can nominate **up to 2** people. Nominations for *Chair, Treasurer, Secretary* and steering group members are due by **31st January**. Our current Treasurer intends to step down at the AGM as he is due to start his term as Mayor of Kidderminster. Please see attached description of the Treasurer's role. Please note that though members of the Steering Group are nominated by individual member organisations, their role on the Steering Group is to contribute to the running of the Alliance as a whole rather than to represent the interests of an individual member organisation.

You are all very welcome are welcome to attend the AGM, to hear about the inspiring and award winning "Newtown Green Community Project" in Worcester. Nominated representatives of each member organisation get to vote for the Steering Group.

Saturday 15th February. Bewdley Repair Café 10.0 – 2.0 at St Georges Hall. Last entries at 1.0 to give our wonderful volunteers a chance to repair your items. For clock repairs, do not leave it to the last minute as these repairs inevitably take more time (no pun intended!). Our brilliant repairers will look at your appliances, radios, electrical items, small items of furniture and garments in need of a little tlc. In the past we have repaired rocking horses, singing reindeer, Victorian dolls, teddy bears and parrots. Our more usual repairs however, include radios, kitchen appliances, sewing buttons on shirts and patches on trousers. Our sharpeners are kept busy with kitchen knives and garden tools. Our more dextrous repairers are sometimes able to mend clasps on bracelets and necklaces. Clean items please. Our repairers have been faced recently with a number of very dirty and dusty items that have been living at the backs of sheds, seemingly for several years! No booking required other than for bikes (email john.rhymer50@gmail.com for bikes).

Tuesday 18th February, 10am-3pm, Wyre conservation task. With Butterfly Conservation. Meet Earnwood Copse car park on B4194 Bewdley-Kinlet road then drive into Forest. Details wmbutterflies@gmail.com or 07802 274552.

Tuesday 18th from 7.30-9pm. Wyre Forest XR Bewdley Quaker Meeting House, Lower Park Bewdley, DY12 2DP, with a social gathering afterwards. [See below.](#)

Tuesday 25th February 7.30-9pm Climate Choir at Offmore church, Gray Close, Kidderminster DY10 3YE. [See below.](#) To join our local fortnightly rehearsals, Contact Hilary at hilarymueller@hotmail.com.

And some advance notices

Wednesday 5th March am Offmore and Comberton litter pick and warm space (St. Chad's Church and Cafe Chad, Burcher Green, Kidderminster, DY10 3AY). Litter-pick for 45 minutes followed by refreshments.

Thursday 13th of March, 9.30-11.30am. Local Groups Community Showcase Event at St Anne's Church,

Saturday 29th March 10am to 12.30 Topsy Flowers. Wyre Community Land Trust

Ruskin Club workshops take place every month from March to November. Contact us for the full programme. Participants will spend a morning making traditional gypsy flowers out of hazel, oak or ash harvested sustainably from the Wyre Forest whilst sitting on a shave-horse, using a traditional draw knife. After mastering this easy-to-learn craft, engage with the Spirit of the Wyre with tastings of Wildjac's naturally flavoured gins, vodkas and rums (non-alcoholic also available).

Participants will take their bunch of flowers home with them, as well as a Wildjac miniature bottle of their choice and a bottle of Wyre Community Land Trust apple juice made with apples gathered from local orchards.

These workshops will take place at St George's Farm, Tanner's Hill, Bewdley, Worcs where the Wyre Community Land Trust is based.

All materials for the activity, tools and work gloves will be provided. £40 pp

To book, call 01299 488083, email events@wyreclt.org.uk or book via our website www.wyreclt.org.uk. Further details and directions will be supplied on booking

Reducing the impact of your diet on the planet!

how to improve your diet and reduce its environmental impact. I even propose a radical idea to reduce the dominance of ultra-processed foods in supermarkets.

<http://www.carbonchoices.uk/index.php/blog/blog-67>

Wyre Forest Climate Choir

What better way to dispel your climate grief, than to sing with like-minded people?

Wyre Forest Climate Choir is part of the national Climate Choir movement which undertakes peaceful protest performances on the climate and nature emergency.

Our performances locally include the Christmas lights switch-on in Bewdley in 2023 and the World Rivers Day event at Bewdley Rowing club in 2024.

Some of our members joined the national choir "flashmob" as part of the "No to BP funding the British Museum" campaign in November.

You don't need to be a fantastic singer; you just need to care enough to sing for our future. Details of the national choir are at <https://climatechoirmovement.org/>

To join our local fortnightly rehearsals, Tuesdays 7.30-9pm at Offmore church, Gray Close, Kidderminster DY10 3YE. Contact Hilary at hilarymueller@hotmail.com.



Wyre Forest Extinction Rebellion

Join Wyre Forest Extinction Rebellion at one of our regular fortnightly meetings.

Whether your concern is river pollution, flooding, pesticide use, nature depletion or the climate crisis generally, we must all do what we can to hold to account those organisations that are destroying the natural world.

We are people who care deeply about the future of our planet, all human beings, and all living things. We believe that by coming together to undertake non-violent action, ordinary people have the power to change things.

Next meetings Tuesdays 4th and 18th February from 7.30-9pm.

Venue: Bewdley Quaker Meeting House, Lower Park Bewdley, DY12 2DP, with a social gathering afterwards.

Wyre Forest Cycle Forum

Creating safer routes for local people

Tackling rising CO2 levels with a bicycle

In case you missed us at the Greener Energy Fair: there are masses of statistics, but a lot of them seem to be either deliberately confusing, precise to 3 decimal places in a way that the real world isn't, or in kilometres when we naturally think in miles.

We've rounded the data so you can see the wood for the trees. Also, weighing a gas in kilogrammes makes it impossible to imagine - gas is incredibly lightweight. As well as the weight of the gas we also show the volume of CO2 to help visualise it.

- A single average petrol/diesel/hybrid car driving an average distance in the UK creates around 1400 kg of CO2 each year as it burns through fossil fuel.
- That is around three quarters of a million litres of CO2! From one car.
- Riding a bike whether regular or electric produces at least 90% less CO2 than driving a car.
- So switching to do a journey by bike instantly and noticeably reduces your emissions. (It also improves air quality and reduces traffic noise.)
- Every 5 miles cycled instead of driven prevents 1 kilogramme of CO2 being created.
- Each kilogramme of CO2 is actually over 500 litres of it – one large car boot full!

Back to the future...

- In 1949 people in Britain were cycling on average around 300 miles a year. (About half the amount that people in Denmark cycle today).
- If we can get back to 1949 levels of cycling in the UK we can cut CO2 emissions by around 8 million tonnes every year.

Looking for 'just one thing' to reduce your CO2 emissions today?

Ride a bike: it really will make a difference(the largest emitting sector of UK greenhouse gases is transport)

Want more data on this? www.bikeradar.com/features/long-reads/cycling-environmental-impact * (at standard atmospheric pressure and temperature!)

Why not join us?

Wyre Forest Cycle Forum works to improve cycling infrastructure across Wyre Forest. To find out more email: info@wyreforestcycling.co.uk

Jet Zero strategy: delivering net zero aviation by 2050. Really?

Remember this from the Johnson Conservative Government? Its text published in 2022 includes: "The Jet Zero Strategy sets out the Government's vision for decarbonising aviation with the sector, focussing on the rapid development of technologies in a way that maintains the benefits of air travel, whilst maximising the opportunities that decarbonisation can bring for the UK." Ah yes, yet another Johnsonian vision, but without tangible progress so far, unless you know different. Now we have a new government, and, d'you know what? Its Chancellor is reported to have said

recently at a convention in Davos, though lacking the context, that economic growth is more important than reaching Net Zero.

The Johnson-inspired Jet Zero goes on: “the Government’s Net Zero Strategy published in October 2021 shows aviation to be one of the UK’s largest residual emitting sectors in 2050.” Yesterday an email arrived from Greenpeace warning that on 29th January the Chancellor will be advocating airport expansion. In Greenpeace’s words: “As we speak, they could be confirming a raft of major expansions to UK airports. Expansions that not only will wreak havoc on the climate - but also won’t create the kind of economic growth our country needs.” It would include places such as Leeds Bradford, and Heathrow.

I don’t know if you have noticed, but the pendulum is swinging away from concern about the changing climate and world we live in to just carrying on as normal and dealing with the consequences of its change. Not just the politically far-right, but also our new squeaky clean Labour government. Let’s have our cake and eat it!

The aviation industry wants to expand and make money. This is not just about the rich getting richer, but also about any of us fulfilling our dreams to travel the world for whatever reason. Most of us will already have enjoyed that freedom, so how can we deny it to subsequent generations? Intractable questions indeed, especially when developing economies and even threatened wildlife depend on tourism from air travel to survive. Ironically, the carbon dioxide emitted in achieving that will speed up desertification, sea level rise, more frequent hurricanes, floods, the list goes on. Perhaps we need to THINK BEFORE WE FLY. Is it a matter of overwhelming personal or societal importance that we do, or could we step back and be just as happy not flying? If enough of us choose the latter then these additional runways will lose their economic justification.

Why not write to your MP about airport expansion using the Greenpeace template, follow: [link](#)
Roger Meade. Friends of the Earth Link for Wyre Forest Distric

Spotlight on Haye Farm Market Garden

Last year was the first year of producing veg boxes here on Haye Farm and what a year it was! Spring got off to a slow start, so seedlings were less robust than they could have been. Following on from a mild winter, conditions were ideal for slugs to thrive and nibble away on those smaller seedlings. Repeatedly losing plants to slugs was really disheartening. More seeds were sown and plants replaced, but some gaps remained and the plants that did survive struggled to really thrive in the poor weather conditions.

Things improved in the summer as the weather warmed up. Eventually veg was ready to be harvested. It was such a joy to be able to fill boxes with a range of delicious veg and hand them over to some of you to be enjoyed in your homes and kitchens. I so enjoyed hearing what you chose to cook and the recipes that were shared. There is a wealth of knowledge and cooking skill amongst you as well as an inspiring passion for good food. It is incredibly rewarding and reaffirming to be supported by a group of people who believe in what I am trying to do. I really believe we need to develop our local food supplies, to build resilience, to grow and farm in ways which prevent more damage to our environment and instead restore it to a healthy, abundant ecosystem. We are a part of the ecosystem and need to feed and nourish ourselves well too.

Then came Storm Darragh. The polytunnel in the garden was unfortunately one of the many things damaged by those 60mph winds. Although it was secured in a number of ways, the wind got into it and couldn’t get back out again, resulting in damage to the frame, rope and supporting bars. The tunnel also fell onto the deer fencing, breaking some of the support posts. As the wind and rain continued, we took down the mangled frame and tried to work out what to do next.

Soon after it was suggested I set up a [crowdfunder](#). I sent the news out on to my mailing list and within 24 hours the initial £500 target was reached – the total now stands at an incredible £1,120! With this I have bought replacement tunnel parts, rootstocks to make windbreaks, replacement fencing and equipment to create the new propagation station. A **huge** thank you to everyone who donated as well as those who sent me words of encouragement. I massively appreciate everyone’s generosity and support and knowing you are all behind me has given me a real boost after such a tricky year. This just

goes to show that we can do a lot on our own, but we can do so much more when we work together. There are so many inspiring people and groups in the WFGA doing great things – isn't it an amazing community!

The weather has been rather windy, so we will wait a little longer to put the tunnel up. A heated bench in the propagation station has been set up, soon to be followed by fencing and windbreaks. There is still lots of work to be done – and that's before I even grow any veg! But with all your support I feel motivated and inspired to do all I can to play my part in building a better food system. Growing food is becoming increasingly challenging, but the only real option is to rise to those challenges. To adapt, persevere and gain in resilience, strength and skill. We desperately need to depart from our broken food system and create an entirely new one that can stand up to adverse conditions while also repairing our broken ecosystems and providing us with nourishing food. Another big thank you to everyone who has supported me along the way. May we continue to help each other and create real positive changes.

If you would like to be kept up to date with market garden news you can join our newsletter by emailing hayefarmveg@outlook.com

Liz Courtney