

WFGA Newsletter. June 2026

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It's SustFest Wyre Forest 2026! SustFest is back throughout June with over 40 events throughout the district. They range from family bike rides, to guided historical walks around Wribbenhall and Bewdley. There are farm visits to St Georges Farm and Haye Farm which is also hosting composting workshops. There are story walks along the river, open wildlife gardens, special church services and opportunities to help church-yards become havens of wildlife. Many more events being added all the time. There is a headline event in each town. **7th June is "Sing the River's Voice"** heralding the start of a 4-month River Festival in Bewdley. **20th June** sees **"Greenshoots"** an "Arts, Crafts and Music celebration in Kidderminster and we round off with a

Family Eco-Day in Stourport on **28th June**. Too many to list in this newsletter so please check the SustFest calendar at <https://www.sustfestwyreforest.org>

Wyre Forest District Council Rangers are putting on many events as part of SustFest 2026. To see these and to book go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/ranger-events-sustfest-2026-4369263>

Monday 1st June 8.0 pm Green Drinks at Bewdley Rowing Club. Use more energy to save money?

The National Energy System Operator (Neso) has asked operators to make free or heavily discounted energy available to their customers at times when there is a surplus of solar and wind power. Come along with your experiences and ideas of how we can make the best use of this cheap or even free energy and balance our use of energy to save ourselves money and help to balance the Grid.

Tuesday 2nd June 7.30-9pm. Wyre Forest Climate Choir meeting and rehearsal at Offmore Church Hall Gray Close Kidderminster DY10 3YE

Tackle the climate crisis through song. We sing locally and as part of the national Climate Choir movement. Contact Hilary at hilarymueller@hotmail.com

Wednesday 3rd June, 10am to 12.30pm, Volunteering Event at Kidderminster Job Centre (upstairs at Kidderminster Library).

Find out about a wide range of voluntary opportunities, from wildlife conservation and litter-picking to mentoring and helping with community activities. Volunteering can be a great way to build skills, meet new people and give something back. All welcome to pop in and chat with people from local organisations about volunteering opportunities that fit around your life.

Sunday 7th June. We sing the River's Voice. 12.-3.0 A unique, creative community workshop leading to a riverside performance starting at the Bandstand at 2.0 then processing along the riverbank. Details on the SustFest Calendar and below

Sundays 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th June, 9.30-10.30am, Park Yoga at Brinton Park, Kidderminster DY11 7BB

Park Yoga is for everyone - all ages, abilities and backgrounds. FREE entry and no need to book. Just come along to the park and look for the Park Yoga flag. All you need to bring is a mat or towel. [Park Yoga | Wyre Forest District Council](#)

Tuesday 9th June Visit to the Envirosort Centre near Worcester. 10.0 – 12.0

Visit this impressive facility and discover how our recyclables are sorted. You will discover the science and technology that allow items to be sorted and gain insights into how to improve your own household recycling. Marvel at the scale of the operation to divert materials from land-fill and ensure that they are recycled. gasp at some of the horror stories of what some people manage to put in their green bins! Details on the SustFest Wyre Forest website. To book go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1983292430047?aff=oddtcreator>

Tuesday 9th June 7.30-9pm. Wyre Forest XR group meeting at Quaker Meeting House Lower Park Bewdley DY12 2DP.

Join our friendly and active local group. Could you be a "Planet Medic"? Just turn up or contact Dave on 0747 1207181.

Tuesday 16th June 7.30-9pm. Wyre Forest Climate Choir meeting and rehearsal at Offmore Church Hall, Gray Close, Kidderminster DY10 3YE

Tackle the climate crisis through song. We sing locally and as part of the national Climate Choir movement. Contact Hilary at hilarymueller@hotmail.com

Friday 19th June 7.30 at St George's Hall. Will a Changing Climate impact on our Economy and National Security?

Transition Bewdley invite you to a screening of a 50 minute film called People's Emergency Briefing, based on the National Emergency Briefing which took place in November 2025. The NEB was the result of leading experts and concerned citizens joining forces to encourage UK decision-makers to step up their response to the escalating climate and nature crisis. It was chaired by Prof Mike Berners-Lee and introduced by Chris Packham. It comprised nine briefings by professionals covering nine different fields, including:- Climate, Food Security, Health, National Security, Nature, Economics and Energy.

This event, and the film of it, are a wake-up call for the UK, the objective being not only to make every one of us more aware of the very real fast approaching dangers but to outline positive actions that we can all take to improve our resilience, both locally and nationally.

It is no exaggeration to say that the very survival of our civilised society depends on us taking action now. After the film there will be free coffee, tea & biscuits followed by discussion and outlines for further action. Everyone is invited to this important SustFest event. Book your place for free at Eventbrite via <https://bit.ly/3RdM8pe>. Learn more and hear the 9 talks in full at <https://www.nebriefing.org/>

Saturday 20th June Greenshoots. Music, Arts and Crafts at The Weaving Sheds, Old Court, Kidderminster. DY10 1EW The SustFest headline event for Kidderminster. A full programme of entertainment with adult and youth choirs, bands and performers. Art and Craft workshops and plenty of stalls.

Volunteers required to help with stewarding, help with setting up and packing away, serving refreshments etc. Please contact the event organiser, Ronnie Lee with offers of help.

ronldanthonylee@gmail.com

Mugs needed. We are looking for donations of china mugs for the Greenshoots event so that our volunteers can serve hot and cold drinks in sustainable cups to visitors. A significant discount will be given to customers who bring their own mugs but it would be helpful if we have a supply available for those people who have not. Donated mugs will be washed and used several times during the event. If you are able to offer any mugs that you no longer need, please contact Ronnie Lee in advance. ronldanthonylee@gmail.com

Saturday, 20th June 10am-12.30pm, Joyful Composting Workshop, Haye Farm, DY12 2TP.

This workshop, led by Claire Woolnough, will combine enjoyable hands-on learning, practical advice, and plenty of time for questions that will leave you feeling confident in the process, knowing how to avoid common issues and with a clear idea of how to make the composting process fit your life. Includes microscopy.

Find out more and book tickets here: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-GB/ticketing/joyful-composting>

Saturday 20th June. 2.0 Bewdley Baptist Church. Bewdley Festival presents Lesley Smith as Anne Boleyn.

Join us as Anne Boleyn, the second wife of Henry VIII tells her own story -one which even today still holds intrigue and romance. As we enter the chamber of the Tower of London, and meet Queen Anne in her execution gown during her final moments, we'll hear her powerful and dark story of rejection, passion, love and terror.

Kindly supported by the Bewdley Civic Society.

Tickets £20 from www.bewdleyfestival.org.uk

No Bewdley Repair Café in June as some of our wonderful volunteers will be working with our Kidderminster colleagues to offer a "Repair Café Corner" at the "Greenshoots" event (see above)

Tuesday June 23rd 7.30-9pm. Wyre Forest XR group meeting at Quaker Meeting House Lower Park Bewdley DY12 2DP.

The Institute of Actuaries, those people who advise the insurance industry on risk, say that whole regions will become uninsurable because of climate change. How can we influence the insurance industry to act upon their advice? Just come along to our meeting or contact Dave on 0747 1207181.

Saturday 27th June 10am-12.30pm, Healthy Soil Workshop, Hays Farm, DY12 2TP.

Join us for an enjoyable morning, led by Claire Woolnough, learning about the soil ecosystem and how we can support it for healthier soil in our garden and allotments. This hands-on session will be a fascinating introduction suited to anyone with an interest in gardening or the natural world. Includes microscopy.

Find out more and book tickets here: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-GB/ticketing/building-healthy-soil>

Thursday 9th July 7.30 pm. 'You don't have to change the world on your own'. Transition Bewdley session at Bewdley Baptist Church. Can you help make a better future for your children and your community? Come along and join in the lively conversation, learn about our current projects and help us shape the future. " Save the date. More details soon.

The Future Is Already Here..... So What Are You Waiting For?



There comes a point when the evidence becomes impossible to ignore.

The climate crisis is no longer a distant warning. It is here now; in heatwaves, floods, crop failures, collapsing ecosystems and rising energy insecurity. Scientists are increasingly warning that we are approaching tipping points in Earth's systems that may be irreversible within our lifetimes.

***“Fossil fuels are pervasively and substantially underpriced globally.”
(IMF eLibrary Report December 2025 - Underpriced and Overused: Fossil Fuel Subsidies Data 2025 Update)***

At the same time, many of the companies most responsible for driving this crisis continue to make staggering profits while receiving public subsidies funded by taxpayers. Think about that for a moment.

The industries contributing most to climate instability are still being supported by public money while households struggle with energy bills and communities deal with the consequences of environmental breakdown.

And, even now, governments around the world continue to provide hundreds of billions of dollars in direct public subsidies to fossil fuels every year while the IMF estimates the true global cost of fossil fuels, including climate and health damage, exceeds \$7 trillion annually.

The explicit (funded by taxpayers) subsidies have fallen from USD 1.4 trillion in 2022 to USD 725 billion in 2025: this is still a huge amount of our tax, and governments made a commitment to phase out “inefficient fuel subsidies by 2025.... Another target missed or lobbied away perhaps! The implicit fossil fuel subsidies, that is the undercharging for the environment externalities (the damage fossil fuel companies are doing to the planet) were \$6.7 trillion in 2024.

That’s 5.8% of Global GDP!

So perhaps the real question now is not whether we should move to renewable energy, but what are you waiting for?

Because the shift is no longer theoretical.

- ➔ Solar panels work.
- ➔ Heat pumps work.
- ➔ Battery storage works.
- ➔ Community energy works.
- ➔ Electric vehicles work.

And increasingly, they make economic sense as well as environmental sense.

This is no longer about sacrifice. It is about liberation. Solar power is no longer about the future: it’s about freedom.

Every home that installs solar reduces dependence on volatile fossil fuel markets. Every organisation that generates its own power becomes less exposed to geopolitical instability and corporate profiteering. Every community energy project weakens the grip of a centralised system built around extraction, dependency and endless consumption.

This matters because energy is never just about energy.

Energy is power... economically, politically and socially.

For decades, fossil fuel companies have held enormous influence over governments and economies while often delaying climate action, lobbying against regulation and protecting profits above planetary wellbeing.

Meanwhile ordinary people are told change is too expensive, too difficult or too disruptive.

But the truth is something else entirely. And, the transition is already happening.

- ➔ The technology exists.
- ➔ The economics increasingly stack up.
- ➔ The public support is growing.

What is often missing is not possibility but courage, imagination and leadership.

In a recent Democracy Now Interview, writer and activist Bill McKibben recently spoke about the accelerating climate crisis and the urgency of action, warning that we are entering a period where the stability of the systems we depend upon can no longer be taken for granted. But there is also another side to this story.

Renewable energy is one of the few places where ordinary people can take meaningful power back.

- ➔ You can put solar on your roof.
- ➔ Your community can create local energy projects.
- ➔ Your organisation can reduce its dependence on fossil fuels.
- ➔ You can choose where your money goes.
- ➔ You can reduce the demand that keeps the old system alive.

That is why this moment matters.

- ➔ Not because renewable energy is trendy.
- ➔ Not because governments say so.
- ➔ Not even because it saves money.

But because every transition away from fossil fuels is also a transition away from a system built on extraction, inequality and short-term thinking.

And perhaps most importantly, because action changes culture.

When people see neighbours installing solar panels, businesses investing in renewables, schools talking about sustainability and communities taking ownership of energy, something shifts psychologically.

The future becomes visible. And visible futures spread.

Of course, no individual action alone will solve the climate crisis. Systemic change is essential. Governments must act faster. Subsidies should support the future, not prop up the past. Energy systems must become more democratic, local and resilient.

But waiting for someone else to lead has become one of the greatest risks of all.

The transition is already underway and you can be part of it. So, if you're not involved just now, what are **you** waiting for?

John Frost

Seed Swap Event

The Seed Swap event on 3rd May at the Jelleyman Community Café, Puxton Lane in Kidderminster was organised by Oscar, a volunteer at Jelleyman's along with Cllr. Vicky Caulfield and Kate Spohrer of the Incredible Edible Kidderminster project.

The event brought together local residents, community groups and organisations to share seeds, plants and gardening knowledge, while encouraging people to get involved in growing their own food and making local areas greener.

There was a great community atmosphere throughout the day, with visitors enjoying homemade soup and cake provided by the café team, alongside activities for children including planting sessions to help younger visitors learn more about gardening and nature.

A number of local organisations and partners attended the event, including; Wyre Forest Green Alliance, Community Housing, Greener Stourport, Attwood Funerals, Tree Spirit, Wyre Forest Vegans and the Worcestershire Wildlife Trust.

Gill and Lisa from Community Housing Customer & Community Engagement attended to help promote their involvement in the Incredible Edible project and speak to local residents about the benefits of community growing initiatives.

The event was a positive example of partnership working and community engagement, helping to bring people together while supporting healthier, greener neighbourhoods.

News from CARP

Innovative and Exciting - Bewdley's First River Festival June 7th-September 27th 2026

The CARP Bewdley River Festival team have been busy planning over 20 arts and nature based events which will appeal to all sections of the community.

The festival launches on Sunday June 7th with the Bewdley Headline event for SustFest, 'We Sing The River's Voice.' It starts with a 90 minute workshop/pop up choir at 12pm in St Anne's Church, Bewdley lead by an excellent artistic team: Performance Poet Sipho Eric Ndlovu, Vocal Improv guru Ruana Xerri-West, opera singer Martin Robson and composer, Liz Dilnot Johnson.

Taking inspiration from the river, those attending will create new sounds, words, songs and join together in support of the beautiful River Severn. It will be easy to sing and inspiring to take part in!

At the end of the workshop those attending will form a procession to Riverside Park where they will be joined by young singers from the Ex Cathedra Academy of Vocal Music together with other young people from Bewdley schools. Here the 'We Sing The River's Voice' performance will take place from 2-3pm

Workshop places will be limited because of space in the church so booking is essential.

Tickets (on a sliding scale from £5,(unwaged) £10,(waged) £20 (donation) be booked via severncarp123@gmail.com

Please wear something blue for the procession.

Janice Bell (CARP) said "This is a unique opportunity for people, in a different and fun way, to use their voices to express their emotions, hopes and fears about the River."

All performance needs an audience, so if you don't fancy raising your voice, please come along and support this spectacular performance.

Other Bewdley River Festival events in June: 22nd June: Beaver Talk - tickets £10

7.30 to 9.00pm - Quaker's Meeting House

Elle Nash (of Forestry England) talks us through an inspired project introducing Beavers in to the Wyre Forest. The aim is to help water management by routing excess water into the River Severn

20th June: Arts Etc are running a river themed headdress workshop (using sustainable materials) for people to wear in CARP's Bewdley Carnival procession. This workshop is part of SustFest's Green Shoots event 10-3 The Weaving Sheds, Worcester Road Kidderminster DY 10 1EW

27th June: Bewdley Carnival, 100th Anniversary!

12 to 1 pm - CARP Procession. Wear something blue and carry something River related & meet at Habberley Lane (TBC)

Or join our 'Flotilla on the River' paddling your own boat or board 12-1pm (meet at Upper Arley Slipway)

For more flotilla info, contact Richard: rsr@edenmidcalf.co.uk

A full festival programme will be in shops, pubs and community venues soon & can be found our website.

<https://severncarp.org.uk/>

Don't forget to sign our petition!

The rights of rivers is a theme that will flow through the festival. We are campaigning for a Charter for our stretch of the River Severn and have launched a petition asking Wyre Forest District Council to debate the granting of a river charter.

We now have over 850 online signatures and at least 300 on paper. We want to show the strength of public opinion by collecting signatures throughout the festival.

If you haven't already signed, please do:

<https://www.change.org/p/support-rights-for-the-river-severn-wyre-forest?>

Be Part of the Change

Help us to make our river healthy, vibrant and safe for us and future generations to enjoy, Support by attending the festival, donating to raise funds or becoming a volunteer (for CARP or the festival)

Please email: severncarp123@gmail.com

Follow us: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/CARP.Bewdley/>



Wyre Forest Cycle Forum

Creating safer routes for local people

A reminder that this is a great time of year to get on your bike

It's already very light by 5am so why stay in bed? An early morning bike ride is a great way to set yourself up for the day. Weekends can be particularly quiet if you are out early on the roads. We are surrounded by quiet local lanes and byways that can transport you as far as your legs and dreams will take you.

An early bike ride can take you back to a previous era before the car took over. It can set you up for working out how to get more cycling into your day-to-day life.

All you need is a bike, a map or a phone and some willpower. Why not think of it as a stroll on a bike and drift along, as the urge takes you, enjoying the sights, sounds and smells. Or set yourself a destination. You're not in the Tour de France. Or are you? How about a trip out to the Kepax bridge in the North of Worcester?

Why not cycle over the 'West Midlands Building of the Year'?

The Kepax walking and cycling bridge, briefly notorious as 'the bridge to nowhere', has just won the Royal Institute of British Architects Regional Award for its "outstanding design, engineering excellence and contribution to the local community".

The Kepax bridge sets a benchmark for how infrastructure can lead to knock-on improvements to connected cycle routes and significant increases in the level of cycling for commuting and leisure. The Cycle Forum is campaigning for additional bridges locally - with appropriate designs for our local area. One key area of focus is Bewdley, where a cycling and pedestrian bridge could at a stroke improve the quality of life, health and wellbeing of residents and visitors - and boost the local economy - by making a step change in opportunities to get around town without using a car

Wyre Forest Cycle Forum. Why not join our next meeting?

The long-awaited Wyre Forest Towns Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan is now due to be published this Spring(!) on the Worcestershire County Council website - [Wyre Forest Towns local cycling and walking infrastructure plan \(LCWIP\) | Worcestershire County Council](#)

We aim to discuss it and related issues at the next Wyre Forest Cycle Forum Meeting:

Thursday 2nd July 2026, 2pm at Wyre Forest House, Finepoint Way DY11 7WF

To find out more email: info@wyreforestcycling.co.uk