

Wyre Forest Green Alliance. March 2026 Newsletter

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Monday 2nd March. 8.0 pm. Green Drinks at Bewdley Rowing Club.

Join us for a lively discussion of “**Should a River Have Rights?**”. Some of you will have read “Is a River alive?” by Robert McFarlane or heard it as ‘book of the week’ on Radio 4. There is a growing movement throughout the world to give nature and particularly rivers legal rights. These assert that nature should be protected for its own intrinsic sake and not simply as a resource to be exploited by humans. Join us for a fascinating discussion which could lead to informed action by groups such as CARP (Communities Against River Pollution) to persuade councils and governments to do more to protect our rivers.

Tuesday March 3rd 7.30-9pm. Wyre Forest XR group meeting at Quaker Meeting House Lower Park Bewdley DY12 2DP.

Actions speak louder than words....although both are important in the fight to counter misinformation about climate change. All are welcome to join us at our regular fortnightly meetings. Just turn up or contact Dave on 0747 1207181.

Saturday 7th March 2026 10am – 1pm. Kidderminster Repair Café. Youth House, Bromsgrove Street. for sewing, sharpening, electrical, tech repairs, mechanical and all sorts of other repairs. Donations only, refreshments available. Items should be clean and not contain fuel

7th March 2026, 10.0am – 1.0pm Introduction to Relief Carving . St Georges Farm. £45 Learn to carve a simple design into a piece of Wyre Forest oak. Please check the website for further details and booking, <https://www.wyreclt.org.uk/courses/>

Tuesday March 10th 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

Saturday 14th March 10.0 – 2.0. Wildlife and Countryside Fair. Severn's Club, Stourport.

Wyre Forest Green Alliance is organising this free event in partnership with Worcestershire Wildlife Trust and Greener Stourport. An opportunity to find out more about what local groups and statutory bodies are doing to safeguard nature and to ensure and improve food security in these challenging times. As well as numerous displays by wildlife organisations and sales of books, crafts and art there will be activities for children and a series of fascinating and enjoyable talks.

Programme of talks.

10:30am – Why heathlands are amazing. *Nick Packham.*

Worcestershire Wildlife Trust

11:00am – Regenerative Farming at Haye Farm *Liz Courtney.*

Haye Farm Market Garden

11:30am – Butterflies of the Wyre *Mike Williams. WM Butterfly and Moth Society*

12:00pm – Worcestershire's Local Nature Recovery Strategy. *Natalie Jaworska. Worcestershire CC*

12:30pm – No Mow May. Helping wildlife in your garden *Clive Wood. Greener Stourport*

1.00pm – Darker Skies. The impact of light on our pollinators *Peter Winter, Ryedale Environmental Group*

1:30pm – Deer of the Wyre Forest *Nigel Woodall*



Tuesday March 17th 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.

Saturday 21st March. 10.0 – 1.0. Bewdley Repair Café. St Georges Hall. As usual, bring your items for repair and sharpening by our expert team of volunteers. You will be amazed at what our customers bring. Our repairers will always do their best to help. No need to book other than for bikes so we can make sure that a bike specialist is available. Some repairs such as clocks can take a long time so arrive early (but not before 10.0!).

World Water Day 22nd March 2026. Water is life.

CARP's central focus is the health of our river and how that is being damaged by many forms of pollution. But we cannot just look at the river without also placing it within the context of the water infrastructure, climate change and future water security. WORLD WATER DAY is about linking all these together. CARP & Wyre Forest Extinction Rebellion will be in Bewdley town centre on March 22nd. It's our water. We all need to work together to make a difference. Come and talk to us...

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

Wednesday 1st April. Green Drinks at Bewdley Rowing Club. "Mind Your Language". A special April Fools Day session where we will take a sideways / lighthearted approach to the issues?

LANGUAGE dictates much of our attitude to the world - for example Inuit have no single word for 'snow' and the indigenous people of the Congo have no single word for 'tree'.

in other words, some of our Western language inhibits a holistic, inclusive and sophisticated approach to 'environment'.

You are invited to come up with words and phrases that you would ban for 6 months?

Malcolm Currie certainly has a few! - for example 'green'; 'absolutely'; 'going forward'; 'climate change'; Can you think of alternative phrases which challenge whilst avoiding over familiarity?

Greener Energy Fair. Nearly 200 of you came along in February to meet our exhibitors, ranging from installers of heat pumps and solar to volunteers happy to share their own experiences of saving energy and money, retrofitting old houses, making delicious plant-based food and more. A series of fascinating talks were extremely well attended. Many people asked if these could be repeated as separate events with more time for discussion. Watch this space.! Our visitor survey showed that **The Bewdley Bridge** was the most effective way of informing about events, followed by posters displayed in local shops and a long way ahead of social media and local newspapers. Well done. the wonderful community of Bewdley!

Switch Together Wyre Forest scheme

Thinking about installing solar panels? It can be difficult to navigate the quotes, technical terms, and wide range of options. The Switch Together Wyre Forest scheme is a council-backed collective purchase scheme, set up to help households invest in solar panels and battery storage with clear guidance, trusted support, and fair, transparent pricing. The scheme is free to join, provides vetted installers, and offers tailored personal recommendations. To find out more, or to register for free and without obligation see [Switch Together Wyre Forest](#)

Your River needs you!

Having put the scheme in place, CARP's River Guardian Co-ordinator is moving to pastures new. Could this be a role for you?

Communities Against River Pollution, a citizen science group is about to launch a system of volunteers (River Guardians and River Watchers) who will look after the Severn in the vicinity of Bewdley and Stourport, watching for signs of pollution which can then be reported to the Environment Agency or to Severn Trent Water. Guardians will "adopt" a section of river and patrol it regularly, whilst Watchers is a looser group of river users who will be able to report anything

nasty they notice. Both these groups will report pollution incidents to a Coordinator, who will report significant incidents to the authorities and generally keep an eye on the operation of the scheme. We urgently need a new Co-ordinator as the schemes are due to launch in the spring. If you think you might be interested in this role, please email severncarp123@gmail.com to find out more.

advance dates for your diary.

Jigsaw Jam

Wyre Forest District Council Sustainability Officers are supporting a **Jigsaw Jam** in

partnership with Kemp Hospice and St Chads Community Café, **Friday 19 June** at **St Chad's Community Hall, Kidderminster**—an evening dedicated to jigsaw puzzle lovers, or anyone who fancies a fun and sociable night out. All proceeds raised will go to **Kemp Hospice**. There will be a bar, along with soft drinks, jigsaw swap and cake available throughout the evening.

Jigsaw Jam is one of many events taking place as part of **SustFest 2026**. Tickets are available via **Eventbrite** or can be purchased at St Chad's Café

This year's SustFest runs from **30 May to 28 June**, with events happening across the Wyre Forest, plus special headline activities in **Kidderminster, Stourport and Bewdley**. The programme includes talks, workshops, walks, performances and more—each linked to at least one of the **ten One Planet Principles**, from zero carbon and local food to culture, health and happiness. Most events are free and open to all.

The poster is for a 'Jigsaw Jam' event. At the top, it says 'In support of KEMP Hospice' with the logo. To the right, it says 'SUPPORTED BY' with a green circular logo. The main title is 'JIGSAW JAM' in large white letters on a blue background. Below that, it says 'ST CHAD'S COMMUNITY HALL, BURCHER GREEN, DY10 3AY' and 'FRIDAY 19TH JUNE 2026 | 6:30PM-10PM'. There is a photo of people sitting around a table with jigsaw puzzles. Text on the poster includes: 'CONNECTING PEOPLE THROUGH PUZZLES!', 'Join solo, with a friend, or as a group, and connect with fellow puzzle enthusiasts in a relaxed, welcoming environment.', 'Enjoy a sustainable, community focused event in support of local hospice care.', 'WHAT TO EXPECT:', '• Rotational team jigsaw puzzling (beetle drive-style)', '• Refreshments (bar, soft drinks and snacks) available to purchase', '• Raffle, stalls and a jigsaw swap - please bring along your jigsaws to swap!', '• Parking on-site', '• Accessible venue', 'ALL PROCEEDS GO TO KEMP HOSPICE', 'Buy £5 tickets using the following link/QR code: www.tickettailor.com/events/jigsawjam/2031492', 'Or from Café Chad: Mondays and Wednesdays 9:15am to 12pm', 'FOR MORE INFORMATION: Email fundraising@kemphospice.org.uk or call 01562758000', and 'SustFest Wyre Forest Greener • Happier • Healthier 2025 MAY 2026 JUNE 2026'.

Wyre Forest Cycle Forum

Creating safer routes for local people

Fairness for all – the lack of safe cycle routes has a bigger impact on women

In the UK women cycle around half as often as men. A YouGov survey recently for Cycling UK showed that 58% of women believe that their cycling journeys are limited by safety concerns and a lack of suitable infrastructure.

Where safe cycling routes exist they tend to be not joined up. They are often missing completely at the most congested places. This is seen as quite normal in the UK - simply missing parts of routes out felt to be too difficult to bother fixing – and where any dangers are highest. In many other places in Europe well-designed and maintained, continuous, safe cycle routes result in equal numbers of males and females cycling.

Cycling UK is a long-established national campaigning body that works to improve opportunities for cycling across the UK. An ongoing campaign by Cycling UK has highlighted the impact of safety concerns on the take-up of cycling by women. You can find out more at www.cyclinguk.org

Tackling discrimination affecting children too

Chris Boardman, National Active Travel Commissioner, powerfully raises the issue of the lack of safe cycling routes for children. There has been a massive increase in both the number of vehicles and the amount of driving over the last few decades. This means the freedom of getting on a bike and cycling, as grandparents or parents used to do when they were young, is no longer an option. Chris Boardman has said: “This is not about cycling: this is about how you improve a nation’s health. This is how you help people travel cheaply. This is transport equity for kids.”

Cutting CO2 emissions and more

And In case you missed us at the Greener Energy Fair in Bewdley last month. Cycle Forum chair, Clive Prince’s, presentation focused on the fastest way to cut your carbon emissions.

“The biggest source of greenhouse gas emissions is transport, 52% of all transport emissions are passenger cars, 60% of 1 to 2 mile trips are made by car. Cyclists’ life expectancy is considerably

higher than motorists - the perceptions of risk are out of line with the reality of cycling...”

Why not join us?

Wyre Forest Cycle Forum aims to help improve cycling infrastructure across Wyre Forest. To find out more or join us email: info@wyreforestcycling.co.uk

Spotlight on Warm Spaces

Thursday 30th of April - Warm Space Celebration Event –, Wribbenhall Community Centre, Shawhedge Road, Bewdley.

Celebrate the wonderful work of local Warm Space groups in Wyre Forest

- **Share** your stories, experiences and ideas
- **Connect** with fellow hosts, partners and supporters
- **Be inspired** to continue this vital work in our community
- **Discover** support and resources available to you

Light refreshments will be served, and there'll be plenty of time to chat and network.

Please contact Elaine Halford-Bishop for more information or to book a place. Elaine.halford-bishop@wreforestdc.gov.uk

Warm Space = Friendship and connection

Our Warm Spaces aren't just about staying warm – they're about connection, friendship, and feeling part of your community.

Across Kidderminster, Bewdley, Stourport-on-Severn and rural areas, people are finding more than just a warm place to sit. They're finding companionship, conversation, and a genuine sense of belonging.

What makes these spaces special?

A warm welcome every single time

The chance to meet people over a simple lunch or just a cup of tea

A place that lifts your spirits when you need it most

Somewhere you can mix, chat, and be yourself

For many people, their weekly visit to a Warm Space has become the highlight of their week – a reason to get out of the house and enjoy the company of friendly faces.

Whether you're looking for a chat, want to join in activities, or simply fancy a cuppa in good company – you'll find it at your local Warm Space.

Find your nearest Warm Space and opening times here: wyreforestdc.gov.uk/warmspaces

Let's make this winter warmer – together!

#WarmSpaces #WyreForest #CommunitySupport #Friendship
#CostOfLivingHelp

