

WFGA newsletter May 2025

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Sun, 4th May, 2-4pm, Spring Walk, Wilden Top car park, Hartlebury Common. Free event open to all organised by the Hartlebury Common local group. Target species: Emperor Moth and Green Hairstreak butterfly.

Tuesday 6th May, 7.30-9PM. Wyre Forest Climate Choir. Fortnightly rehearsal at Offmore. Church Hall, Gray Close, Kidderminster DY10 3YE.
Help us make a splash as we rehearse our water themed songs in readiness for our next collaboration with the national Climate Choir.
More information from Hilary at hilarymueller@hotmail.com

Friday 9th May 6.45 Sustfeast 25!
Put the date in your diary. 9th May 2025 at 6:45 at St Michael's and All Saints Church, Stourport. (see article below)

Saturday 10th May 9.0 – 1.0 Plant Supports. Venue: Wyre Community Land Trust, St George's Farm, Tanners Hill, Bewdley, Worcs DY12 2LS
Make your own plant supports for the garden before it gets out of hand! Several ideas will be considered and you will make a hazel wigwam for climbing beans or sweet peas! Cost **£45** See www.wyrect.org.uk/courses or phone 01299 488083 or email events@wyrect.org.uk to book.

Tuesday 13th May, 7.30-9PM. Wyre Forest Extinction Rebellion fortnightly local group meeting. We are a supportive network of like-minded people who truly care about the future of the planet and of future generations.
If you can't make it to our usual Bewdley venue, join us at the Cavalier pub, Tennyson Way, Kidderminster DY10 3YT. All environmentally conscious people welcome to attend our local group meeting. Just come along or contact Dave on 0747 1207181.

Tuesday 20th May, 7.30-9PM. Wyre Forest Climate Choir. Fortnightly rehearsal at Offmore Church Hall, Gray Close, Kidderminster DY10 3YE.
Help us make a splash as we rehearse our water themed songs in readiness for our next collaboration with the national Climate Choir. More information from Hilary at hilarymueller@hotmail.com

Thursday 22nd May, 9.30am Moth Morning, 11am Butterfly Walk, Lodge Hill Farm, Wyre Forest. Free event organised by West Midlands Butterfly Conservation and Natural England. Chance to examine moths caught overnight followed by an opportunity to see early butterflies including the nationally rare Pearl-bordered Fritillary. Advance booking required to rob.murray@naturalengland.org.uk tel 01299 400686.

Tuesday 27th May, 7.30-9PM. Wyre Forest Extinction Rebellion fortnightly local group meeting. Quaker Meeting House, Lower Park, Bewdley DY12 2DP.
We are a supportive network of like-minded people who truly care about the future of the planet and of future generations. All environmentally conscious people welcome to attend our local group meeting. Just come along or contact Dave on 07471207181.

Saturday 31st May 2025 at 2pm. Lesley Smith Portrays Elizabeth 1, at Bewdley Baptist Church. A Bewdley Festival Event. Tickets £18. www.bewdleyfestival.org.uk

Stalls and displays at events during SustFest and shortly after.

Many of you are putting on your own events during SustFest 2025. (If you have not yet organised or registered your events, it is not too late to do so. [Register Here](#)).

There are several opportunities to have a stall or display to promote your organisation at events organised by others. Here are the people to contact if you would like a stall.

7th June. 11.0 – 2.0 pm Eco Family Fun Festival at The Old Magistrates Court, Kidderminster. Contact Elaine Halford-Bishop
Elaine.Halford-Bishop@wyreforestdc.gov.uk

20th June Greener Living Fair, prospective stallholders should contact Ronnie Lee
ronaldanthonylee@gmail.com

25th June Greener Living at Holy Innocents Church. (Fully booked)

28th June. Bewdley Carnival, Load Street, Bewdley. [To book:](#) No charge for WFGA organisations

29th June Family Eco-Day, Memorial Park, Stourport on Severn. Contact Em Burnip
hi@greenearthlings.co.uk

Saturday July 5th. Wolverley Carnival 2025- **Wolverley Memorial Hall Field To book [click here](#) : £25 for a charity stall.**

Some very wise words.

Who said: “The Earth, our home, is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth.”

“A selfish and boundless thirst for power and material prosperity leads both to the misuse of available natural resources and to the exclusion of the weak and disadvantaged.”?

George Monbiot? Chris Packham? Greta Thunberg? No!

These are in fact quotes from Pope Francis, who died last weekend.

In 2015, two years after becoming pope, Francis published Laudato Si (Praise Be to You), a 183-page papal letter sent to all Catholic bishops on “care for our common home”. It was a significant intervention made just a few months before the climate summit that led to the Paris agreement.

In this letter, the Pope says “those who possess more resources [and] power seem mostly to be concerned with masking the problems or concealing their symptoms, simply making efforts to reduce some of the negative impacts of climate change”. The Pope warned that “such effects will continue to worsen if we continue with current models of production and consumption”.

Such a wise man and such a sad loss for the world, not just those of the Catholic Faith.

District Heating Schemes.

The heat you need at a reasonable price': how district heating can speed the switch to clean energy. An interesting article in The Guardian.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/mar/28/the-heat-you-need-at-a-reasonable-price-how-district-heating-can-speed-the-switch-to-clean-energy>

Inspire And Support Your Council to Take Better Climate Action

Climate Emergency UK's next Local Climate Academy (LCA) will run between 10th June- 15th July 2025. This course is specifically aimed at and particularly beneficial for **campaigners working with councils and people considering becoming councillors in the future**. If this is you, we would love to welcome you at our online sessions. The LCA will equip you with the knowledge, tools and skills to support your council to tackle the climate and ecological crisis. To apply now for a space on the Local Climate Academy Evening Course for Campaigners and Councillors. Click below.

Evening course: 5:30-7pm Campaigners and Councillors

You will not be charged to apply.

****Note we are also running a morning course in tandem aimed at **council officers**, here****

Worried about emissions from aircraft and its links with climate change?

Here is another opportunity to ask the Government to listen to the Climate Change Committee and not approve airport expansions at Luton, Gatwick and Heathrow. Airport expansion is bad for people living near to airports because of an increase in noise and air pollution, and will also result in rising emissions, at a time when we should be doing all we can to reduce emissions. The petition is here: <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/714927>. At 10,000 signatures the petition will be sent to the government, and at 100,000 signatures it will be debated in Parliament. Although Friends of the Earth has its own petition to Rachel Reeves against airport expansion, the more the government hears this the better, so it would help if we could all sign this one started by Anna Hughes, Director of Flight Free UK. *Roger Meade, FoE Link, Wyre Forest.*

Wyre Forest Cycle Forum

Creating safer routes for local people

In the news... International Cycling Summit held in Worcester!

April saw Bike Worcester hosting the Global Bike Bus Summit 2025. Participants were able to visit bike buses in action and hear about and discuss how they work. To find out more about bike buses just visit www.youtube.com/@bikeworcester - see the Global Bike Bus Summit 2025 playlist. These videos start with an introductory workshop on bike buses detailing the inspirational example of Worcester now - with further insights from experiences in Glasgow and around the world.

What is a bike bus and why are they taking off in the UK?

In Worcester there are now 15 bike buses serving 11 primary schools. Led by parents and grandparents and supported by volunteers they enable young children to cycle safely to school. They're effectively a mobile bike lane that moves along with

the young people safely inside. Vulnerable riders stay on the left with parents and volunteers to their right.

Routes are planned and risk assessed to minimise junctions. Lead and tail riders manage the traffic. In Worcester if a group ever starts to “split” everyone shouts “bananas” as a quick message to everyone to close any gaps up!

Children love it and arrive at school keen to learn. It’s a healthy way to travel that reduces traffic congestion and families involved tend to do much more cycling at other times.

In an ideal world the cycling infrastructure would be there to remove the need for bike buses. It isn’t yet - but in Worcester and around the world many children are getting this opportunity. If you are a parent/grandparent of a child at a local primary school and interested in starting a bike bus please get in touch. We may be able to help find local volunteers to help you.

Back on your bike this Spring but feel you need eyes in the back of your head?

If you’re looking for just one thing to improve your cycling experience why not consider getting a mirror? It’s a simple bike accessory that just needs the occasional wipe. A mirror on your handlebars could help you keep track of other road users and can be particularly useful when turning right or approaching obstacles. They range from cheap and cheerful to more exotic versions. A quick glance in a convex (not flat) mirror should give you a good, wide view behind.

Why not join us?

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