

WFGA Newsletter May 2026

Friday 1st May 7pm for 7.30pm. Screening and discussion of the "[National Emergency Briefing](#)"

Monday 4th May 8.0. Green Drinks at Bewdley Rowing Club. *No session this Month*

Tuesday 5th May 7.30-9pm. [Wyre Forest Climate Choir](#)

Tuesday 12th May 7.30-9pm. [Wyre Forest XR group](#) meeting

Saturday 16th May. 10.0 – 1.0 [Bewdley Repair Café](#) at St Georges Hall.

Saturday 16th May 7pm for 7.30pm start. [Wyre Forest Climate Choir](#) at St Anne's church,

Tuesday 19th May 7.30-9pm. [Wyre Forest Climate Choir](#) meeting

Tuesday 26th May 7.30-9pm. [Wyre Forest XR group](#) meeting

Monday 1st June 8.0. [Green Drinks](#) at Bewdley Rowing Club. Use more energy to save money!

[Recycle more.](#)

Let's Create a Green & Blue Block at [Bewdley Carnival!](#)

[Your flies are undone!](#)

Red Listed [Swift visitors](#) arriving early this year!

Wyre Forest [Cycle Forum](#)

[The Last Straw at Hormuz:](#) Has the Iran War Finally Broken Our Addiction to Oil?

[Spotlight on Bewdley River Festival](#)

Contents:

Friday 1st May 7pm for 7.30pm. Screening and discussion of the "National Emergency Briefing" at St Mary's church, Alverley. Free entry but tickets available

through <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/alveleyromsleyneb/2137462>.

THIS IMPORTANT FILM WILL ALSO BE SCREENED AT ST. GEORGE'S HALL BEWDLEY ON FRIDAY 19TH JUNE. EVENTBRITE DETAILS TO FOLLOW.

Monday 4th May 8.0. Green Drinks at Bewdley Rowing Club. *No session this Month as it is a bank holiday.*

Tuesday May 5th 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

Tuesday May 12th 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 16th May. 10.0 – 1.0 Bewdley Repair Café at St Georges Hall.

This year we will once again be taking part in "The Big Fix" organised by Repair Cafes Devon. We have taken part in this for most years from 2020. In 2025 83 Repair Cafes from throughout the UK took part. 1,148 volunteers fixed 2,358 items saving 63,880 Kg CO2 saved from entering the atmosphere. You can help by bringing your items in need of repair or sharpening along to St Georges Hall on 16th May. As usual, no need to book other than bikes. If you want to bring a bike please contact john.rhymer50@gmail.com

Recent sessions saw our volunteers repairing items as diverse as vacuum cleaners and a fairy with a wobbly wing!

Saturday May 16th 7pm for 7.30pm start. Wyre Forest Climate Choir at St Anne's church, Load Street, Bewdley. Our Climate Choir will be joining Gracenotes and Wyre Forest Community Choir in a "3 Choirs concert" in support of CARP Bewdley River Festival. Tickets £10 from severncarp123@gmail.com

Tuesday May 19th 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

Tuesday May 26th 7.30-9pm. Wyre Forest XR group meeting at Quaker Meeting House Lower Park Bewdley DY12 2DP.
A recent Government report shows how environmental degradation can disrupt food, water, health and supply chains, and trigger wider geopolitical instability. Join us to discuss how we should respond. Just turn up or contact Dave on 0747 1207181.

Monday 1st June 8.0. 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.

Recycle more.

From April, residents of Wyre Forest will be able to put aluminium foil (kitchen foil and foil trays), and plastic tubes (empty toothpaste and cosmetic tubes) in their green bin.

These items will be collected with the usual things which can already be recycled in the kerbside collection scheme, such as paper, card, glass jars and bottles, cartons, tins, cans, empty aerosols, and plastic bottles, pots, tubs and trays.

The changes are part of the government's Simpler Recycling plan, which aims to make recycling more consistent across England.

For foil recycling please:

Make sure your foil is clean and free of food
Wipe or rinse foil trays
Remove any plastic lids or packaging
Scrunch clean foil into a ball if possible


For tube recycling please:

Squeeze out any remaining product so the tube is empty. If possible, wash out any residue. Leave the cap on – it can be recycled.

Raise Your Voice for the River

A Three Choirs Concert
Wyre Forest Community Choir
Gracenotes and Wyre Forest Climate Choir

At St Anne's Church, Bewdley
On 16th May, 2026
7pm for 7:30pm start
Tickets £10



In support of CARP Bewdley River Festival
Get your tickets from Choir members or by emailing
severncarp123@gmail.com

Let's Create a Green & Blue Block at Bewdley Carnival!

The Bewdley Carnival 100th procession is one of the most family oriented and visible events in our local calendar—a celebration of community, creativity, and shared identity. This year, Wyre Forest Green Alliance has a wonderful opportunity to make a vibrant, positive statement by coming together as a “Blue and Green Block” within the parade.

Building on What's Already Happening

We already know that several groups will be taking part in the river-themed (blue) section of the procession through the amazing efforts of C.A.R.P. That's fantastic—and it gives us a natural starting point.

The idea is simple:

Those already involved in river and water themes form the “Blue” part

Others—local groups, campaigners, and individuals—join behind as a “Green” wave

Together, we create a flowing, eye-catching block celebrating nature, climate awareness, biodiversity, and our local environment. As a representative of Friends of the Maypole the community driven local group trying to save an environmentally and historically important piece of land I will be there, ideally dressed as a bee - bizarrely an ambition of mine!

A Walking Float – Simple, Inclusive, Effective

Rather than a traditional vehicle float, this would be a walking float—easy to organise and open to everyone.

Participants could:

Dress in green or blue outfits

Come as trees, rivers, wildlife, flowers, pollinators, or ecosystems

Carry banners or signs representing their group or cause

Use simple props—fabric, leaves, recycled materials—to create a shared visual impact

This approach keeps things:

Low-cost

Accessible

Creative and fun

A Chance to Showcase Our Local Groups

This is also a brilliant opportunity for member organisations to:

Raise awareness of their work

Attract new volunteers and supporters

Show solidarity across environmental efforts

Each group can bring a banner, but the overall effect will be strongest if we move together as a unified “Green and Blue” presence

Why It Matters

At a time when environmental issues can feel overwhelming, this is a chance to:

Share a hopeful, positive message

Celebrate the beauty of our local natural world

Show that many voices in Wyre Forest care deeply about nature and climate

And importantly—it will look fantastic.

Get Involved

Whether you're part of an organisation or just an individual who cares, you're warmly invited to join.

You could:

Walk with us

Help organise

Bring friends and family

Get creative with costumes or props

Let's make this a colourful, joyful expression of environmental action in our community.

Together, We Make an Impact

By coming together in a Green and Blue Block, we can turn a fun community event into something more—a visible celebration of nature and a shared commitment to protecting it and hopefully attract new members to all our causes!

Let's make it happen.

If you are up for it, please contact *Sarah Frost* on sfrost2842@gmail.com or 07958 704409

Your Flies are undone!

There has been much publicity about the decline of bees but flies are in similar decline due to factors such as:

- habitat loss,
- the heavy use of pesticides
- heavy use of fertilizers in industrial agriculture,
- climate change.

A 2025 study found that flying insect numbers in the UK have fallen by roughly 63% since 2021

Without flies

- global ecosystems would likely collapse due to a massive halt in decomposition and pollination.
- There would be widespread food shortages
- The world would be filled with rotting bodies of animals
- The world would be full of poo
- There would be no chocolate
- There would be shortages of apples, avocados, carrots, mangoes, onions, peppers, strawberries, brassicas, and various herbs like coriander and parsley.
- Many birds, frogs and fish would starve to death
- Many murders would go unsolved
- Patients would die of gangrene

Why are flies important?

- **Essential Pollinators:** Flies are second only to bees in pollination importance, often carrying more pollen due to their hairier bodies. They are crucial for agricultural crops, including strawberries, onions, carrots, and mangoes, and are the sole pollinators of the cocoa plant.
- **Waste Management & Decomposition:** Larvae (maggots) are nature's clean-up crew, decomposing dead animals, decaying plant matter, and animal manure, which turns waste into organic compost.
- **Food Chain Foundation:** Flies, maggots, and hoverfly larvae are a critical food source for numerous birds, fish, lizards, and frogs.
- **Natural Pest Control:** Many species of hoverfly larvae are predators that eat aphids, protecting plants without chemical pesticides.
- **Scientific Research:** Fruit flies are foundational to genetics research and have contributed to multiple Nobel Prizes in medicine.
- **Medical Use:** Specialized maggots are used in medicine to clean necrotic wounds, as they only eat dead tissue.

How We Can Help Them

- **Reduce Pesticide Use:** Avoid broad-spectrum insecticides in gardens, as these kill flies along with target pests, reducing food for wildlife.
- **Plant Diverse Flowers:** Cultivate flowering plants, especially those that bloom early or late, to provide nectar for pollinators like syrphid flies.
- **Allow Natural Decay:** Leaving some rotting organic matter or leaf litter allows larvae to feed and complete their life cycle, supporting the decomposition process.
- **Create Complex Habitats:** Maintain areas with varied vegetation (dead wood, shaded areas, sunny spots) to support different fly species.

John Rhymer

Red Listed Swift visitors arriving early this year!

By Clair Amos, Swift Friends Wyre Forest

There are reports coming in of swifts arriving a good two weeks earlier than previous years, so keep your eyes peeled for our local swifts. Could this be down to climate change?!

Problems swifts face are climate change, poor weather during migration, a loss of nest sites and the decline of insect populations (a swift's diet). Swifts are now a red listed species, swift numbers have declined by more than 50% in 20 years. They need our help.



A few brief facts about swifts;

- Swifts spend almost all their time in the air, they eat, drink, sleep and mate on the wing
- they are here for about 12 weeks each summer arriving around May time to raise one or two chicks and then return to Africa, a round trip of 14,000 miles
- Swifts mate for life and meet each other at the same nest site each year
- They are insectivorous birds catching vast numbers of small insects for themselves and their chicks

Ways you can help:

- Preserve existing nests
- Consideration with building works
- Comment on local planning applications asking for swift provision
- Put up swift boxes
- Wildlife friendly gardening
- Don't use pesticides
- Join swift groups or even set up your own swift group in your local area
- Record your sightings on Swift conservations 'Swift Mapper'



What to do if you find a grounded swift:

Put the swift in a closed ventilated box and contact a specialist swift carer, seek advice from <http://actionforswifts.blogspot.com/p/grounded-swift> or on Facebook via the group 'Swift SOS – Coordinating Rescues (Swifts, Swallows and Martins)'

You can also contact Swift Friends Wyre Forest via Facebook. We have some 'swift taxi' volunteers who may be able to assist with transport to a specialised swift carer.

Some other sources of further information:

actionforswifts.blogspot.com

swift-conservation.org

If you would like to join Swift Friends Wyre Forest look for us on Facebook, thank you for taking the time to read this article.

Wyre Forest Cycle Forum

Creating safer routes for local people

- **Three great local cycling opportunities this month with Bewdley Bike Week and Sustfest :**
- **RAIL & RIDE - let the Train take the Strain! (Bewdley Bike Week)**
- As a special concession for Bewdley Bike Week the Severn Valley Railway has once again generously agreed a unique deal for parents and children.
- **Mon 25 May / Tues 26 May / Wed 27 May / Thurs 28 May / Fri 29 / Sat 30 May**
- For these six days during the Whitsun Half Term Holiday Severn Valley Railway are offering a chance for 12 cyclists each day (adults and children) to travel with their bikes for the flat fare of **only £10 per adult and £1 per child!** A real bargain!
- Outward journey is by the 11.15 train from Bewdley to Hampton Loade station. This is next to National Cycle Route 45. Cyclists will then use their bikes to pedal back to Arley station (about 5 miles). This is a safe and easy route on paths and country roads with almost no road traffic. En route it passes the Country Park Visitor Centre, Arley Arboretum Café, and also cafes by the river in

Arley. From Arley Station riders and bikes will be transported back to Bewdley by an afternoon train at no extra cost. **Pre booking and payment is essential as no tickets will be available on the day. To book places please phone Malcolm Garner on 07811 333373**

- **BREEZE BIKE RIDE - JUST FOR WOMEN! (Bewdley Bike Week)**
- **Monday 25 May 2026 – Wyre Forest Visitor Centre – 10.00am start**
- This is a special Bike ride just for women riders starting at 10.00 at Wyre Forest Visitor Centre, Callow Hill, Kidderminster DY14 9XQ (car parking charges apply).
- Breeze Rides are for female riders of all abilities, and the aim is to enjoy riding in a relaxed but safe manner with lots of chat, laughter and post ride cake of course!
- Led by Sally Ellis and Sandra Pedersen (both qualified off-road leaders), this ride will be a small group, riding at a leisurely pace, covering a 5-mile ride on main forest tracks, with a bike check and mini coaching session before setting off. We never leave anyone behind! **Any queries and to book a place please contact Sally Ellis (saljellis@gmail.com).**
- **FAMILY FRIENDLY GENTLE BIKE RIDE – Sunday 31 May (Sustfest)**
- Would you enjoy a friendly and sociable bike ride at a steady pace? This ride is for you. It is for adults and accompanied children (over 8 years who are competent riders). The start will be at 10.00 Bewdley Brewery (in Lax Lane) and cycling will be along quiet roads and lanes, stopping at Hartlebury Castle Café for refreshments on the way back.
- **For details including how to book see the events calendar at www.sustfestwyreforest.org**
- **Wyre Forest Cycle Forum**
- Wyre Forest Cycle Forum aims to help improve cycling infrastructure across Wyre Forest. To find out more email: info@wyreforestcycling.co.uk

The Last Straw at Hormuz: Has the Iran War Finally Broken Our Addiction to Oil?

Catastrophes often bring a rare clarity. In late February, energy prices surged dramatically. This wasn't due to a drop in demand but a doubling of energy costs within days. Policymakers watched screens flicker as the undeniable evidence of a global energy crisis unfolded before them; a self-inflicted liminal space that clearly terrified them.

For decades, the world has recognised the need to transition away from fossil fuels. The science was clear, the economics increasingly favourable and the political rhetoric plentiful. Yet the pipeline continued to pump and tankers continued to sail. Then, on 28 February 2026, US and Israeli strikes on Iran changed everything; not gradually but overnight.

The closure of the Strait of Hormuz triggered what the International Energy Agency described as the largest supply disruption in global oil market history. This wasn't just a shock; it was an exposure.

For years, the global economy navigated familiar stages of dependence: denial of structural risks, deepening reliance on imported fuels and growing tolerance for volatility. Hormuz marks the moment when this illusion shattered, revealing the collision between a system built on convenience and reality.

The roots of this crisis don't lie in a single decision made in February. They are the cumulative consequence of years of geopolitical brinkmanship, short-termism and a transactional approach to energy policy that prioritised cheap supply over long-term resilience.



The decision to strike Iran, whatever its military justification, also involved a gamble with the global energy system. This gamble is now being realised at the petrol pump through rising inflation and the creeping threat of stagflation. Europe's exposure is particularly acute due to its reliance on imported fossil fuels and the vulnerability of its energy supply routes. The vulnerability was understood, modelled and debated but not addressed quickly enough.

However, within this disruption, something remarkable is occurring. The case for renewable energy, long seen as an environmental necessity, is being redefined as a strategic imperative. Solar panels can't be blockaded in a strait and wind turbines can't be sanctioned. Locally generated energy can't be weaponised by a hostile state. What climate advocates argued for decades is now being echoed by economists defence analysts and central bankers. When groups rarely agree, it's usually because reality has eliminated room for disagreement.

There are already signs of acceleration: emergency approvals for renewable infrastructure, renewed investment in grid resilience and a reframing of energy independence as a matter of national security. None of this eliminates the friction; grid capacity lags ambition, storage remains a constraint and political resistance won't disappear overnight.

But these are no longer reasons to delay; they are obstacles to overcome because the alternative has become untenable. We're entering an era defined by fracture, of geopolitics, trade and increasingly energy itself. In this world, energy is no longer just an economic input; it's a question of control.

An energy system reliant on narrow shipping lanes, fragile alliances and politically volatile regions isn't simply inefficient; it's exposed and vulnerable by design. As this crisis has shown, vulnerability is costly.

The alternative is no longer theoretical; it's already evident: solar panels on rooftops, offshore wind farms, community embedded storage and grids designed for resilience rather than optimisation. For years these were presented as environmental choices but are now strategic necessities.

What's most striking isn't the possibility of this shift but the sheer magnitude of the shock needed to make it inevitable. The evidence was there the warnings were clear and the technology was ready. What was lacking wasn't capability but will.

Disruption of the most reckless kind has finally forced rational leadership to act where it couldn't. This should give us pause.

The question isn't whether we understand the problem but whether we're finally prepared to act on what we've long known. This is the leadership moment. Not one defined by managing volatility but by choosing a different path entirely prioritising resilience over convenience long-term stability over short-term gain and independence over exposure.

The 1970s oil shock drove change through scarcity. This moment offers something different. Not just a warning but an alternative. Because this time the tools to build a different system are here, scalable and in many cases already the better economic choice.

The crisis didn't create the argument for clean energy; it exposed the cost of ignoring it. The last straw didn't change the truth it simply made it unavoidable. We're at another pivotal moment regarding energy and the planet's future. The real question isn't whether the world can afford to transition but whether, having seen the consequences so clearly, it can afford not to.

**In psychology, a liminal space a threshold state; a pause, a transition, a space that can feel uncertain, uncomfortable and even disorienting. It tends to show up during big shifts. It's the space between the old story and the new one it rarely comes with a roadmap, and often comes with a feeling of lost.*

Reflective Questions (based on the article)

1. If the risks of fossil fuel dependence were already well understood, what has prevented meaningful action until now, and how do we ensure this moment leads to sustained change rather than another short-term reaction?
2. In a world where energy is increasingly about security and control, what would it mean practically and politically, for your country or organisation to prioritise resilience over convenience?
3. What kind of leadership is required to act before the next crisis?
4. Where, in your own sphere of influence, could you begin shifting decisions toward long-term energy independence today?

Key Points of the Article

Global Energy Crisis Trigger: US and Israeli strikes on Iran in late February 2026, leading to the closure of the Strait of Hormuz and the largest supply disruption in the global oil market.

Impact of the Crisis: Exposed the fragility of the global economy's dependence on fossil fuels and the consequences of prioritising cheap supply over long-term energy security.

Underlying Causes: Years of geopolitical tensions, short-sighted energy policies, and a lack of investment in renewable energy sources.

Energy Security as a Strategic Imperative: The case for renewable energy is gaining momentum as a strategic necessity due to its resilience against geopolitical disruptions.

Vulnerability of Current Energy System: Europe's reliance on imported fossil fuels through vulnerable channels exposes it to energy security risks.

Acceleration of Renewable Energy Adoption: The energy crisis is driving emergency approvals, investments in grid resilience, and a shift towards energy independence as a matter of national security.

Energy Transition Necessity: The energy transition is no longer a choice but a strategic necessity due to the current energy crisis.

Leadership Moment: This crisis presents a leadership moment to prioritise resilience, long-term stability, and independence in energy choices.

Affordability of Transition: The question is no longer whether the world can afford to transition to clean energy, but whether it can afford not to, given the clear consequences of inaction.

John Frost

Spotlight on Bewdley River Festival

The 'Rights of Rivers' will be central to the first **Bewdley River Festival** that CARP is currently planning. This will be an Arts & Nature based festival with events and activities from June 7th through to World Rivers Day on 27th September 2026.

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. If you haven't already signed, please do:

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

Festival events to get involved in now:

- If you're a photographer you can enter our Photography competition (open to all, 16years and older) focusing on the theme 'Rights of Rivers' and the question 'Is a River Alive?'
- If you like singing, book into our festival's first workshop & Bewdley's headline event for SustFest ' **We Sing The River's Voice** ' (12pm St Anne's Church)

Here's a bit more about this unique event....

Liz Dilnot Johnson (Composer in residence Ex Cathedra) and Martin Robson (Singers4all) & Ruana Xerri-West (vocal improvisation and nature based singer) will lead a creative community workshop for young people and adults leading to a riverside performance at 2-3pm.

Taking inspiration from the river, you will create new sounds, words, songs and movement to join together in support of the beautiful River Severn.

What to expect:

12-1.30pm

- Liz and Martin will inspire everyone using their voices in different and fun ways to express our hopes - and our fears - for the river.
- Simple melodies and beautiful harmonies will be created on the spot, all levels of experience welcome.
- Everything will be easy to sing and inspiring to take part in!
- Everyone is invited to bring their voice and their passion for the river to create something unique on the day.
- We will celebrate what the river means to us.

2-3pm Liz and Martin will lead the riverside performance, starting by the Riverside in Bewdley.

Performance 1: Words, Songs and Sounds that honour the river, it's history and all it offers.

Procession: Moving alongside the riverbank with shoals of fish and flocks of birds we will celebrate all the life that thrives in and depends on the river.

Performance 2: Grieving the losses of the river, sounding our sadness at the current threats to the river's health. We will share our passion for the river, ending with an uplifting finale with our hopes for a thriving and beautiful healthy river in the future.

Workshop places will be limited because of space in the church so booking is essential. Tickets (sliding scale £5- £20) booked via

severncarp123@gmail.com

Or if you don't want to sing, come along to support the performances by the river from 2-3pm.

CARP needs local people to support this festival and you can do that in many ways:

- Attend events/activities
- Become a festival volunteer
- Join us in our Bewdley Carnival walking Procession on 27 June (River themed clothes or headdress)
- Donate to help us raise funds for the festival

More information about events/ activities and the photography competition can be found on our website:

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

Be Part of the Change

Help us to make our river healthy, vibrant and safe for us and future generations to enjoy,

Please email: severncarp123@gmail.com

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