

WFGA August 2025 Newsletter

2nd August and 3rd August [Family Nature Day – Butterflies](#). At Bishops Wood..

Tuesday 5th August, 7.30-9PM. [Wyre Forest Extinction Rebellion](#)

6th August, [Community Litter Pick](#). Burcher Green, Kidderminster

7th August, [Community Litter Pick](#). Bewdley

9th August - 09:30 - 14:00 [Heathland bees for beginners](#).

12th August, [Community Litter Pick](#). St Michael's Church, Stourport

14th August 10.00am – 11.00am [HWCC Virtual Sustainability Forum](#) by Zoom

16th August [Bewdley Repair Café](#) this session is *cancelled*.

18th August [Community Litter Pick](#) Hartlebury.

19th August, 7.30-9.0 pm. [Wyre Forest Extinction Rebellion](#)

2nd September, 7.30-9.0 pm. [Wyre Forest Extinction Rebellion](#)

6th September 12.30 [Stourport River and Land Carnival](#)

9th September 7.30-9.0 pm [Wyre Forest Climate Choir](#).

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Saturday 2nd August and Sunday 3rd August Family Nature Day – Butterflies. At Bishops Wood.

Join in with the big butterfly count. Follow the trail and create some crafts. Get up close and personal with some wildlife and build your own den. Feel free to bring a picnic. Hot drinks are available. Please pre book via <https://www.field-studies-council.org/courses-and-experiences/static-courses/eco-adventures-at-bishops-wood/> £5 per person. Under 1s free.

Tuesday 5th August, 7.30-9PM. Wyre Forest Extinction Rebellion fortnightly local group meeting. This meeting is at the Cavalier pub, Tennyson Way, Kidderminster DY10 3YT. Meetings alternate between Bewdley and Kidderminster.

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 are welcome to attend our local group meetings. Just come along or contact Dave on 0747 120718

Wednesday 6th August, Community Litter Pick. Meet at 10.30am St Chad's Church in Burcher Green Kidderminster

Thursday 7th August, Community Litter Pick. Meet at 9.30am St. Anne's Church in Bewdley,

Saturday 9th August - 09:30 - 14:00 Heathland bees for beginners

on The Devil's Spittleful and Blackstone Farm Fields. Meet at Blackstone Picnic Place car park Kidderminster & Bewdley DY12 1PU

Are you interested in learning about bees and insects in your local area? This beginner and family-friendly course will look at the different bees and invertebrates living on the heath and their preferred habitat. We will teach you how to identify different invertebrates and bees as well as spot signs of their activity on the heathland. You don't need to know anything about wildlife before you come. Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

Tickets must be booked in advance Any questions please

email: joe@worcestershireswildlifetrust.org We look forward to seeing you there.

12th August, Community Litter Pick. Meet at 10.30am St Michael's Church, Stourport

14th August 10.00am – 11.00am [HWCC Virtual Sustainability Forum](#) by Zoom See below.

Saturday 16th August. Our August **Bewdley Repair Café** session is **cancelled**. We will be back 20th September. Our apologies, particularly as we had to also cancel our June session due to so many of our volunteers being on holiday. We do have quite a large team of wonderful volunteers but they do have a habit of going on holiday and also have many other commitments! Do get in touch if you would like to find out more about volunteering, as a Repairer or on the Admin or Front of House teams. Contact john.rhymer50@gmail.com

Monday 18th August Community Litter Pick at 10.30am Hartlebury. Meet at Brian Norton Garage on Sandy Lane, Stourport

Tuesday 19th August, 7.30-9PM. Wyre Forest Extinction Rebellion fortnightly local group meeting. This meeting is at the Quaker Meeting House, Lower Park, Bewdley DY12 2DP. Meetings alternate between Bewdley and Kidderminster. 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 are welcome to attend our local group meetings. Just come along or contact Dave on 0747 12071

Tuesday 2nd September, 7.30-9PM. Wyre Forest Extinction Rebellion fortnightly local group meeting. This meeting is at the Cavalier pub, Tennyson Way, Kidderminster DY10 3YT. Meetings alternate between Bewdley and Kidderminster. Find out how the insurance industry is funding fossil fuel expansion despite actuaries warning them they must act now to avert climate disaster. Just come along or contact Dave on 0747 120718

Saturday 6th September 12.30 Stourport River and Land Carnival
We are calling for people to support CARP by joining us in the parade carrying fish themed items and then to help with the CARP information stall in the Carnival field.

Tuesday 9th September 7.30-9PM Wyre Forest Climate Choir.
There are no fortnightly rehearsals during August. Rehearsals will resume at Offmore Church Hall, Gray Close, Kidderminster DY10 3YE on Tuesday 9th September 7.30-9PM More information from Hilary at hilarymueller@hotmail.com

Ground-breaking Judgement on Climate Change

Despite governments around the world seemingly back-peddalling on their climate commitments in the face of misinformation promoted by fossil-fuel interests that our economies cannot afford to take climate action, Judge Iwasawa Yuji, President of the **International Court of Justice**, delivered the ICJ's [Advisory Opinion on climate change](#). It is the most far-reaching legal statement ever made on the responsibility of States to protect the rights of current and future generations to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment. And it is the clearest legal affirmation to date that cooperation among States to address climate change is not optional—it is a binding obligation. To hear a discussion with key players who have helped bring this about go to <https://www.outrageandoptimism.org/episodes>

Calling all Businesses!

HWCC Virtual Sustainability Forum

The Sustainability Forum (Sponsored by Worcestershire County Council) is aimed at businesses in any sector, with a goal of sharing best practice to reduce the environmental impacts of business operations through energy and resource efficiency improvements. These events will include presentations by industry experts to provide tools, advice and tips to takeaway.

14th August 10.00am – 11.00am by Zoom

The Sustainability Forum has four main aims:

- To highlight new technologies and hear from suppliers.
- To enable the region's businesses to grow sustainably.
- To share best practice with regards to energy, resource efficiency and sustainability.
- To encourage sustainable business practices throughout the region in order to reduce business overheads and carbon emissions.

[Click here to book your free place\(s\)](#)

Wyre Forest Friends of the Earth

Many readers will remember a petition signed by over 500 local people and businesses in September 2023 and handed to our MP Mark Garnier outside Bewdley Museum. It was asking him to support the Climate and Ecology Bill, which he declined to do. This has now morphed into the Climate and nature Bill (CAN Bill) and it got a first reading in January this year. Unfortunately, it ran out of time as a private members bill, and the issue was then to get parliamentary time for a second reading. Locally, we supported Zero Hour, the organisation promoting the Bill by sending a letter to the Prime Minister asking him to allow a second reading. Around 640 such letters were delivered at Number 10 by Zero Hour, ours being one of them. This too

fell on deaf ears, but Ed Milliband acknowledged our hard work (collectively) in a speech in the Commons that reinforced the need for action on climate and nature. We do not yet know when the promised talks with Zero Hour will take place, or their terms of reference, but one thing is clear: LET THEM KNOW YOU CARE! Please take every opportunity to sign petitions, and help us in trying to get across to our MP the need



for the sort of legal framework the CAN Bill would provide. Photo shows Revd Canon Giles Goddard, Professor EJ Milner-Gulland, Ellen Bradley, co-director of UK Youth for Nature, Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall and Sarah Morse, CFO of Triodos Bank. It was sent on request by Zero Hour.

Roger Meade Wyre Forest FoE Link

Transition Bewdley AGM 10th July 2025.

It was a delight to welcome people to this year's AGM. We had so much to celebrate and to add to this, we had an excellent guest speaker in Claire Fauset.

As well as the long-standing Repair Cafe and Green Drinks sessions, Transition Bewdley is proud to support the Community Heat Network Project which aims to

provide renewable heating for local homes. Peter Miller gave us a short update on progress. www.bewdley.org.uk/bewdley-energy

Another TB project is CARP (Communities Against River Pollution) and we were pleased to hear from Chair of CARP, Dee Edwards, about all the work that has been going on in the past year. Dee thanked everyone who supported our very successful Remember Our River event on June 15th. As a result of this we have had 30 new members and our FB page *Carp Group- Communities Against River Pollution* has grown to 192 followers in 6 months! We're delighted!

CARP is now planning something very different for World Rivers Day (September 28th). See below. - more information soon.

There are also ongoing discussions between CARP and Severn Trent and the Environment Agency.

Claire Fauset, environmentalist, took us through her many experiences from climate camps to living and working on an eco-farm in Barcelona to taking environmental messages to people in Indonesia via art and music on a magical tour by sailing boat. To get a sense of some of her experiences take a look at this link: <https://www.museum-of-unrest.org/2024/11/06/arka-kinari-a-sailing-sirens-song-for-a-warming-world/>

We were thrilled to welcome Hilary Mueller as our new secretary. Peter Miller agreed to continue as Treasurer and Janice Bell continues as Chair.

In order to continue with the current projects and to develop new ones, we need active volunteers who would like to initiate or participate in our activities. Do get in touch if you'd like to learn more. Email j_c_bell@talk21.com.

Remember, you don't have to change the world on your own, we can do it together.

"If we wait for governments, it will be too late. If we act as individuals, it will be too little, but if we act as communities, it might just be enough, just in time." *Ben Brangwyn, co-founder Transition Movement.*

Updates from CARP

- **Remember Our River**

Didn't it go well? If you didn't manage to take part in the event, look out for the video which was made of the event. We hope to be able to show it on World Rivers Day. The steering group would like to thank everyone who came and helped put together the day. We were very grateful to Robert Plant who supported the day and helped us to get the media coverage that we achieved. We do need to bear in mind that it wasn't an end in itself and there is much that still needs to be done to draw attention to the state of the river in order for change to happen.

- **Chemical Testing update**

Chemical testing is ongoing with the addition of testing for ammonia in the water. We are also testing at Stourport Rowing Club.

- **Outfall Safaris/River Stewards**

It is hoped to have completed mapping specific stretches of the river by September so that River Stewards will be able to monitor them. By then we will have a description of the role of the Stewards. Roger has suggested that those interested might like to join him along a stretch of the river so that he can discuss what they might be looking for.

- **Links with other organisations:**

- **Severn Trent Water** - Discussions are ongoing with Severn Trent about issues that we have identified.
- **Angling Trust** - There have been discussions with the Angling Trust about closer working and possible modifications to their data collection system (Epicollect)
- **Medway Project** - This project has many similarities with our own and we are exploring what we can learn from their approach.
- **British Rowing** - There has been a meeting with representatives from British Rowing, Bewdley Rowing Club and Stourport Rowing Club to discuss a more joined up approach since we all share the same goal - a clean river.

- **Future Events**

- **Stourport River and Land Carnival 6th September 12.30**

We are calling for people to support CARP by joining us in the parade carrying fish themed items and then to help with the CARP information stall in the Carnival field.

Get in touch if you'd like to take part. Let's take CARP to Stourport.

- **World Rivers Day 28th September**

We are planning a varied programme of talks and videos for the day. We will have updates of the progress our testing has made. Melissa Green, CEO of the National Women's Institutes will be talking about the WI's Campaigns relating to Rivers, Richard Perrin of Bewdley Civic Society will give a Bewdley view of the river across the years and Drew Richardson from River Action will speak about

their campaigns to date.

Let us know if you would like to help with planning the event.

Quarterly Social meetings

We are thinking of running quarterly social meetings. These may be fundraisers for the organisation and running of CARP but they would also be a means of us getting to know each other as a group. Suggestions have been a river litter-pick or a Christmas Social. If you have any thoughts about this, let us know and then watch this space. We would very much welcome a volunteer to be the CARP social Secretary to get this going.

Wyre Forest Cycle Forum

Creating safer routes for local people

Could cycling help you beat the cost of living crisis?

The cost of living is back in the news again. Inflation is still much higher than the Bank of England's target rate of 2% and taxes are forecast to increase. The financial pressures faced by many people are high and rising...

"Annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditure nineteen nineteen six, result happiness. Annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditure twenty pounds nought and six, result misery."

Mr Micawber: David Copperfield (1850): Charles Dickens: Author & Social Scientist.

Cycling can cut your cost of living dramatically

The Government is promising to put 'more money in the pockets of working people' but why wait?

When families can avoid running 2 or 3 cars the financial savings are huge.

Replacing one car with a practical bike/electric bike is a great way to help balance the books. The physical and mental health benefits of cycling are an added bonus.

And you can use the money you save to buy luxuries you could not otherwise afford.

Don't miss out on summer holiday cycling fun at Burlish Bike Park

The home of mountain biking in Worcestershire is in Stourport. A fun day of mountain bike riding for the whole family, a place for small children to master their first trail, for older children and teenagers to ride with their friends and more...

www.burlishbikepark.com

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

Spotlight on Wyre Forest Litter Pickers

"Wyre Forest Litter Pickers" are a newly formed group consisting of like-minded people who previously were part of 'The Pickup Artists'. We are all concerned with the appearance of our three towns and the surrounding areas with regard to the amount of litter seen on our roads and the impact this could have on local wellbeing, visitors to the towns and the wildlife too. To this end we either litter pick streets and/or parks and



countryside solely or meet to tackle difficult areas as a group. One such area has been an ongoing project, Hartlebury Common off Sandy Lane Ind Est which has been regularly fly tipped. This is a joint project with Worcestershire County Council Countryside Rangers. Our ongoing goals are to continue with this area but also try to involve businesses on the main roads into the towns eg Worcester Road (Hoo Farm Ind Est), Stourbridge Road, Stourport Rd from

Kidderminster into Stourport, Comberton Road and Birmingham and Chester Roads though these are very well maintained by a couple of our members. We also join in with Wyre Forest District Council's new community litter picks being run from St Anne's Church in Bewdley, St Michael's Church in Stourport and St Chad's Church on Offmore Estate and we regularly assist residents to keep their estates clean by helping to promote Wyre Forest District Council's 'Adopt a Street' campaign. All event dates arranged by us can be found on our Facebook page, the community picks are at the following times Stourport - 2nd Tuesday of the month at St Michael's Church meeting at 10.30am, then Offmore - 1st Wednesday of the month at St Chad's Church, Burcher Green meeting at 10.30am, and finally Bewdley - 1st Thursday of the month at St Anne's Church meeting at 9.30am (all of these provide free refreshment afterwards). If anyone is interested in joining in with any picks or would like company picking in their area or even if you know anywhere that needs attention, we are contactable through our Facebook page 'Wyre Forest Litter Pickers' and via our new email address WyreForestLitterPickers@outlook.com

