

Wyre Forest Green Alliance Newsletter July 2025

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Tuesday 1st July, 7.30-9PM. **Wyre Forest Climate Choir.**

Fortnightly rehearsal at Offmore Church Hall, Gray Close, Kidderminster DY10 3YE.

Our next UK event is at the Ludlow Green Festival on Sunday 13th July, before some of our members head off to Europe with the Bewdley Transition twinning team. More information from Hilary at hilarymueller@hotmail.com

Saturday July 5th The next Repair Cafe in Kidderminster is offering sharpening including garden tools, scissors etc. Also sewing repairs, electrical and mechanical fixes, woodwork, and much more. Items should be clean and not contain flammable materials. Donations only,

refreshments available. See you there at the Youth House Bromsgrove Street Kidderminster 10am till 1pm!

Tuesday 8th July, 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. Find out how you can be a "Planet Medic" at Ludlow Green Festival on 13th July. All environmentally conscious people are welcome to attend our local group meetings. Just come along or contact Dave on 0747 120718

Wednesday 9th July 6.30 pm UK Sharing Prosperity Fund consultation.

Wyre Forest Green Alliance has been awarded £20,000 to deliver a series of events and projects to engage local people of all ages to live more sustainably. Join us for a zoom meeting to make suggestions for ways to do this. Email john.rhymer50@gmail.com if you would like to join us and we will send you a zoom link.

Thursday 10th July 7.0 pm "Transition Bewdley AGM" Bewdley Baptist Church

You are invited to attend the AGM of Transition Bewdley where you will hear about the exciting projects we have been working on in the past year. Much progress has been made with the Energy from the Severn project and a lot has happened with CARP (Communities Against River Pollution). At the same time our regular activities have continued apace.

Find out what we plan for the coming year and you may even feel moved to join our steering group. After our business meeting we are excited to announce a talk by Environmental Activist Claire Fauset. Bewdley local, Claire tells of her life in environmental activism from scaling power station chimneys in the UK, to living in eco-communities in Spain, and sailing in Indonesia bringing the message of climate change to remote communities.

Tuesday 15th July, 7.30-9PM. Wyre Forest Climate Choir.

Fortnightly rehearsal at Offmore Church Hall, Gray Close, Kidderminster DY10 3YE.

Possibly our last rehearsal before a short summer break.

More information from Hilary at hilarymueller@hotmail.com

Saturday 19th July. 10.0 – 1.0 Bewdley Repair Café in St Georges Hall. Apologies for not being able to operate in June. Very unusually, most of our repairers happened to be away that weekend. Hopefully enough will be available in July to run as normal, though the summer months are always challenging so we always welcome new recruits. As usual, no need to book other than bikes. Email john.rhymer50@gmail.com if you would like to find out more about volunteering at the Repair Café or if you wish to book a bike in.

Tuesday 22nd July, 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 120718

Wednesday 23rd July 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.

Thursday 24th July Family Nature Day – Butterflies at Bishops Wood -details as for 23rd July

Saturday 2nd August Family Nature Day – Butterflies at Bishops Wood -details as for 23rd July

Sunday 3rd August Family Nature Day – Butterflies at Bishops Wood -details as for 23rd July

Haye Farm Market Garden

Veg boxes are back again! Everything in our boxes is grown on site, here at Haye Farm to organic standards and packaged minimally. Reduce your food miles, learn some new recipes and improve your health. [Sign up for a weekly or fortnightly box](#) and join us in eating delicious seasonal food that makes you feel good.



Boxes are £16 and our collection days are Tuesdays (1-2.30pm), Fridays (1-2.30pm) and Saturdays (9-10.30am). Visit our website to learn more. <https://www.haye-farm.co.uk/vegetables>

Wyre Forest Cycle Forum

Creating safer routes for local people

Fancy going for a bike ride on local country lanes but want to avoid the traffic?

This time of year, it is surprisingly easy. Just set your alarm clock early!

At the beginning of July, it starts getting light here at around 4am - with dawn officially before 5am. It's not until the middle of August that dawn creeps forward to 6am (but it will still be getting light well before that).

Why not try a very early summer morning bike ride?

The earlier the better as long as it is light. Pick a dry day with clear skies for a memorable bike ride likely to put a smile on your face. Country lanes and less direct routes can be very quiet.

There is a good chance you will see the occasional cyclist around, plus the odd early bird driver, but weekends have a lot fewer heavy vehicles and many people unaccountably decide to stay in bed until later...

You may well feel that you have gone back to a time when the bike was king - before motor vehicles started taking over here. July and August are a great time to try out an early morning bike ride, but beware, this may be addictive!

How about summer holiday cycling fun at Burlish Bike Park?

The home of mountain biking in Worcestershire is here. A great local opportunity for a fun day of mountain bike riding for the whole family, a place for small children to master their first trail, older children and teenagers to ride with their friends and more... see www.burlishbikepark.com **Why not join us?**

The next Wyre Forest Cycle Forum Meeting will be on Thursday 10th July 2025 at 2pm: Wyre Forest House, Finepoint Way DY11 7WF. Wyre Forest Cycle Forum works to improve cycling infrastructure across Wyre Forest district. To find out more email info@wyreforestcycling.co.uk



Worcestershire Wildlife Trust Wyre Forest District Council COMMUNITY HOUSING

Neighbourhood In Bloom 2025

Exciting categories to enter:

1. Best garden
2. Best hanging basket or pot display
3. Best wildlife garden
4. Best vegetable garden
5. Best communal or community garden

1st Prize £50 in vouchers

Independent Living Schemes welcome to enter!

Whether you're a seasoned gardener or just starting out, this is your chance to showcase your green-fingered skills!

Enter by 30th June 2025
Winners will be contacted in August
Enter via the QR code or visit tinyurl.com/4fhj4jkh

For more details or help entering, please contact:
Tina Browne | 07980 862767 | 01562 733121
CustomerEngagement@communityhousing.co.uk



Neighbourhood In Bloom. Urgent deadline 30th June!

We are excited that this competition has been broadened out to include a category for food growing. Although it is entitled best vegetable garden, this can also include fruit! As last year, there is also a category for best wildlife garden

SustFest 2025

With 65 events registered throughout June, there have been plenty of opportunities for people to become *Greener, Happier or Healthier*. Ideally all three as they are all interlinked. Over 1,500 people have attended SustFest Wyre Forest events this year.

As I said when being interviewed on Radio Hereford and Worcester, with the world facing huge challenges, political, economic and environmental, it is easy to become discouraged and do nothing. I suggested that the key to actively becoming greener is to enjoy what we are doing, taking pleasure in helping our communities and our environment. Even if we doubt that our politicians and economic systems are capable of addressing the joint threats of climate change and biodiversity loss, what we do, however small will make a difference, at least to ourselves and our local communities. Spending time in and for nature is good for our mental well-being and working with others helps our emotional well-being.

This was epitomised by one of the biggest events of SustFest 2025, the CARP "Remember Our River" procession, service and stalls in Jubilee Gardens. For me it was uplifting to celebrate our river with so many other joyous people determined to show that they cared.

Spotlight on: Oceans

Another SustFest Event was the screening of **Ocean**, the new David Attenborough feature film. We are grateful to WFGA member St Georges Hall for arranging this event which attracted over 90 people, many of whom stayed on to discuss the film and its implications. People wanted to find out more about what we can do as individuals to help protect the world's seas. We sent the following

to those who asked for more information which we repeat here. If you have not yet seen “Ocean” we recommend that you do so.

During the discussion there was enthusiasm for finding out more about which fish, if any, we could eat, who to write to in order to urge more action and more information about the UN Ocean Conference. The good news is that we can continue eating many fish and that the recommendation for piscivores is to eat a wider variety of fish. We in the UK generally only eat 5 different species which puts pressure on those populations.

Useful links include:

“Together for the Ocean”

has useful information and a simple way for you to write to the UK Government to urge more action. They offer a draft letter for you to customise.

<https://act.for-the-ocean.org/act/protect-uk-marine-havens>

Marine Conservation Society <https://www.mcsuk.org/>

A UK based group that offers advice on what we can do as individuals, which fish are most sustainable and other useful information. Their “good fish guide” can also be [uploaded to your phone](#) so you can check while shopping for fish.

National Geographic who helped fund the film are offering free availability of the film for Schools and Colleges and a discussion guide (I have created a print friendly version -attached) [Link](#)

Newspaper articles

Is the ocean ‘having a moment’? This was the UN summit where the world woke up to the decline of the seas

A useful report in the Guardian on what the UN Ocean Summit has achieved

Is the ocean ‘having a moment’? This was the UN summit where the world woke up to the decline of the seas. An encouraging quote “António Guterres, the UN secretary general, called the pace of progress “a record”. “I see a momentum and an enthusiasm that was difficult to find in the past,” he said.”

[Link](#)

This **report from the BBC** includes updates on what the UK Government has pledged to do to regulate fishing and addresses some of the issues other than fishing, such as deep-sea mining and plastic pollution. [Link.](#)

A **reprint of George Monbiot’s** article originally published in the Guardian. [Link](#) It was written at the start of the UN Conference and criticises the timidity of the BBC in not allowing Attenborough to address these issues more robustly in the past. He also queries the financial impact of fishing on the UK economy and employment.

The UN own summary of what has been achieved, lists pledges and agreements as they were made. [Link](#)

And [an independent summary report](#) of the conference outcomes.

Also for balance, a critique of the film from the **National Federation of Fishermen’s organisations**. [Link](#) . Not surprisingly, the blog points the finger at other threats to our oceans, such as deep-water mining and undersea cables and claims that the damage from bottom dredging no longer happens and suggests that this was a practice from the 1980s. Not sure how the makers of Ocean were able to film this if those methods are no longer used! JUDGE FOR YOURSELVES.