

WFGA Newsletter November 2025

Thursday 30th October 11am - 2pm [Autumn Open Day](#)

Saturday 1st November [Kidderminster Repair Cafe](#)

3rd. November 7.0 pm [CARP drop-in session](#) at Bewdley Rowing Club.

3rd. November 8.0 pm [Green Drinks](#) at Bewdley Rowing Club. “Will AI destroy our planet or will it help save it?”

Tuesday November 4th. 7.30- 9PM. [Wyre Forest Climate Choir](#) rehearsal.

Thursday 6th November [Waste Prevention and Composting](#). Bewdley Baptist Church. 7.30

Tuesday, November 11th 7.45pm [Hartlebury Common Local Group](#) presents :
Talk on the Wildlife of Worcestershire

Tuesday 11th November. 7.30-9PM. [Wyre Forest Extinction Rebellion](#) fortnightly meeting.

Thursday 13 November, 10.00am to 12.00pm [Over 50s Showcase](#). Kidderminster Town Hall.

Saturday 15th November. 10.0- 1.0 [Bewdley Repair Café](#) at St Georges Hall.

Tuesday November 18th. 7.30-9PM. [Wyre Forest Climate Choir](#) rehearsal.

Tuesday 25th November. 7.30-9PM. [Wyre Forest Extinction Rebellion](#) fortnightly meeting.

Thurs, November 27th 10.00am West [Midlands Butterfly and Moth Society](#): Conservation Task

Friday 28th November, 6pm, [Harvest Celebration](#), Heightington Village Hall, DY12 2XU

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What's On

Thursday 30th October 11am - 2pm Autumn Open Day at Devil's Spittleful nature reserve With Worcestershire Wildlife Trust. Complete our autumn hunt to win prizes. Discover more about the amazing heathland wildlife and habitats. Join our bird expert to find out what birds you might see and hear at this time of year. Get up close and personal with nests, animal poo and other wonderful wild things. Find us under the bridge close to The Devil's Spittleful nature reserve

Saturday 1st November 10.0 – 1.0 Kidderminster Repair Café Youth House, Bromsgrove Street

Monday 3rd. November 7.0 pm CARP drop-in session at Bewdley Rowing Club.

Interested in becoming a Communities Against River Pollution (CARP) supporter?
We need volunteer River Guardians, River Watchers & campaigners. Or do you simply want to find out what we do? Join our regular drop-in sessions first Monday of each month. Looking forward to seeing you there!

3rd. November 8.0 pm Green Drinks at Bewdley Rowing Club. “Will AI destroy our planet or will it help save it?” Often controversial, always congenial and supportive, join our conversations on topical environmental issues of local, national and international concern.

Tuesday November 4th. 7.30- 9PM. Wyre Forest Climate Choir rehearsal.

Venue: Offmore church hall, Gray Close, Kidderminster DY10 3YE.

What better way to manage your climate grief than through song. Use your voice to highlight the consequences of our destructive approach to the planet that is our only home.

Just turn up or contact Hilary at hilarymueller@hotmail.com.

Thursday 6th November Waste Prevention and Composting. Bewdley Baptist Church. 7.30

pm. Volunteers from Garden Organic will be joining us for a talk and discussion. Garden Organic is the national charity for organic growing, and over the years has developed expertise in home composting, developing a network of Master Composters around the country. In Worcestershire, they work with the County Council to promote composting as well as waste reduction more broadly and recycling. Come along to learn about waste reduction, composting and recycling in Worcestershire, and discuss possible ways to reduce waste. All welcome at this free event

Tuesday, November 11th 7.45pm Hartlebury Common Local Group presents :

Talk on the Wildlife of Worcestershire by Jason Kernohan at Elizabeth Mills Centre, Sion Gardens, off New Road, Stourport. Further details from chair@hartleburycommon.org.uk

Tuesday 11th November. 7.30-9PM. Wyre Forest Extinction Rebellion fortnightly meeting.

Venue: Bewdley Quaker Meeting House, Lower Park, Bewdley DY12 2DP.

Exploring creative and innovative ways of keeping the twin crises of climate change and biodiversity loss in the public gaze. We are a nonviolent movement that believes civil disobedience is a necessary means to protect the planet. Just turn up or email wyreforest.xr@gmail.com for more details.

Thursday 13 November, 10.00am to 12.00pm Over 50s Showcase. Kidderminster Town Hall. [See article below](#)

Saturday 15th November. 10.0- 1.0 Bewdley Repair Café at St Georges Hall. Back after our October session as part of International Repair Day where the focus was on how to keep our phones and laptops going despite software updates seemingly designed to make our electronic items obsolete! Our full range of repairs will be available including clocks, kitchen appliances, cuddly toys and bikes. Our sharpening team will be happy to deal with your garden tools and kitchen knives.

Tuesday November 18th. 7.30-9PM. Wyre Forest Climate Choir rehearsal.

Venue: Offmore church hall, Gray Close, Kidderminster DY10 3YE.

"Ding, dong merrily on high, the temperature is rising. With all the carbon in the sky, it isn't that surprising". Join us for festive songs with a message. Just turn up or contact Hilary

at hilarymueller@hotmail.com

Tuesday 25th November. 7.30-9PM. Wyre Forest Extinction Rebellion fortnightly meeting.

Venue: Bewdley Quaker Meeting House, Lower Park, Bewdley DY12 2DP.

Exploring creative and innovative ways of keeping the twin crises of climate change and biodiversity loss in the public gaze. Just turn up or email wyreforest.xr@gmail.com for more details.

Thurs, November 27th 10.00am West Midlands Butterfly and Moth Society:

Conservation Task in the Wyre Forest. meeting at Earnwood Copse car park near Buttonoak village. Working in partnership with Natural England. All tools and refreshments provided. Further details at wmbutterflies@gmail.com

Friday 28th November, 6pm, Harvest Celebration, Heightington Village Hall, DY12 2XU

You are warmly invited to join us for our Harvest Celebration at 6pm on Friday the 28th of November at Heightington Village Hall. In collaboration with Transition Bewdley, Wyre Forest Green Alliance and The Garden Kitchen, Haye Farm Market Garden is welcoming all veg box customers, friends of the farm and local food lovers to join us for an end of season celebration. We appreciate your support so much and want to celebrate the wonderful food and community that surrounds us. So come along, eat, drink and be merry!

6pm - Arrive and sip some deliciously warming mulled apple juice as you browse stalls held by incredible local food and drink producers. You will find lots of good candidates for Christmas presents! There will also be a cookbook swap table, so bring along a recipe book you no longer use to swap for another which inspires you more.

7pm - Feast on the best flavours of the season with a delicately spiced tagine (lamb or vegan option) and side of pommes Anna followed by a dessert of apple and ginger cake or poached Worcester Black Pear. All cooked by the skilful team from Bewdley Kitchen Garden using local ingredients including some of our own. Please bring your own wine or other drinks to have with dinner.

Tickets are £20 each. Please RSVP by emailing Liz at hayefarmveg@outlook.com with number of tickets required and meat/vegan preferences for the main. We can't wait to share this wonderful evening with you!

Litter Picking sessions.

Wednesday November 5th at 10.30am, St Chad's Church, Kidderminster - community litter pick

Thursday November 6th at 9.30am at St Anne's Church, Bewdley - community litter pick

Tuesday November 11th at 11am, at St Michael's Church, Stourport - community litter pick

Monday November 17th, 10.30am, Franche Road Co-op. Kidderminster - community litter pick

Monday November 24th at 10.30 am Hartlebury Common, Sandy Lane- Hartlebury Common litter pick.

Electric Vehicle Charging Points.

Worcestershire County Council are inviting residents to suggest appropriate locations for electric vehicle charging points to be installed. This is particularly important for those people who do not have their own off-road parking or if you are a business that wants to attract holiday makers and other visitors to your locality. You can just drop a pin onto the [online map](#) to suggest a location.

Renewable Energy. Do not believe the negative assertions from main stream media and politicians in thrall to the fossil fuel industry.

A report in The Guardian explains that the world's wind and solar farms have generated more electricity than coal plants for the first time this year, marking a turning point for the global power

system, according to research. The report by the climate thinktank Ember found that in the first six months of 2025, renewable energy outpaced the world's growing appetite for electricity, leading to a small decline in coal and gas use.

The world generated almost a third more solar power in the first half of the year compared with the same period in 2024, meeting 83% of the global increase in electricity demand. [Wind power](#) grew by just over 7%, allowing renewables to displace fossil fuels for the first time. For a link to the full article click [here](#)

Recycling Wind Turbine blades.

President Trump hates wind-farms and what he quaintly refers to as wind-mills. One of his assertions is that the wind-turbine blades only last 8 years and cannot be recycled. You may be surprised to hear that he is wrong! Recycling at scale is a challenge but it is being done successfully and productively as this [article in the Guardian](#) reports.

Yet another reason not to buy bottled water!

A Warning: We're consuming more than just water when we drink from single-use plastic bottles: microplastics. [New research](#) published in the *Journal of Hazardous Materials* found people who drink bottled water ingest **90,000 more** microplastic particles each year than those who don't.

The Study: Researchers from Concordia University in Montreal [reviewed 140 scientific articles](#) about microplastics. They found people ingest an average of 39,000 to 52,000 microplastic particles per year, but **bottled-water users consume 90,000 more particles than those who drink tap water**.

The Takeaway: Single-use water bottles are usually made from cheap, low-quality plastic. Any time they're manipulated or exposed to heat or sunlight — when they're being manufactured, transported, squeezed, or left out in the sun or inside a hot car — **microscopic bits of plastic from the bottle leach into the water**. Once inside the body, [microplastics don't ever leave](#). They travel through the bloodstream, collect in organs, and even cross the blood-brain barrier (I mean [just look at this](#)). They've been linked to chronic inflammation, hormone disruption, neurological disorders, and other health problems.

Celebrating Community and Connection: Over 50s' Showcase Returns

The Over 50s' Showcase — a series of free, friendly events designed to support and celebrate older residents is returning this Autumn.

Organised by Wyre Forest District Council, the final of the three Showcase is taking place at Kidderminster Town Hall on **Thursday 13 November, 10.00am to 12.00pm** and are free to attend.

The Showcases bring together local organisations offering advice and information on healthy living, finances, benefits, and community services. Whether you're looking to stay active, get support, or simply connect with others — there's something for everyone. Confirmed attendees include:

- **Simply Limitless**
- **Age UK**
- **Community First**
- **Kidderminster Day Care**
- **Community Housing**
- **Act on Energy**



FREE ENTRANCE

Over 50s' Showcase Event

Tuesday 23 September 2025
St George's Hall, Bewdley, DY12 2EQ
10.00am-12.00pm

Wednesday 15 October 2025
The Civic, Stourport, DY13 8UJ
10.00am-12.00pm

Thursday 13 November 2025
Kidderminster Town Hall, DY10 1DB
10.00am-12.00pm

Free information and advice on healthy living, finances, benefits and local services.

For further information contact
e: Elaine.Halford-Bishop@wyreforestdc.gov.uk
t: 01562 732572

www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk

Logos for Wyre Forest District Council, Simply Limitless, and Age UK are at the bottom.

- **BT Digital Voice**
- **Local Repair Cafés**
- **Wyre Forest litter pickers**
- **Talking Newspaper**
- **Heathy Worcestershire**
- **Choral Society**

And many more community groups and service providers.

The Showcase is a great opportunity to meet people, ask questions, and find out what's available locally — all in a relaxed and welcoming setting.

Councillor Chris Rogers, Wyre Forest District Council's Cabinet Member for Housing, Health and Wellbeing said:

"The Over 50s' Showcase is all about connection, support and wellbeing. These events bring together trusted local organisations who can offer practical advice and friendly guidance — whether it's about staying active, managing finances, or finding community. We want everyone to feel welcome and informed, and to leave knowing what help is available and how to access it."

Inspirational Earthshots. Why not in the Wyre Forest District too?

Most will have heard of the Earthshot annual prize, fronted by Prince William. From a **breakthrough microplastics filter** and the world's first fully **upcycled skyscraper** to the boldest **reforestation and ocean protection** initiatives ever, The Earthshot Prize 2025 Finalists represent exceptional climate leadership. The Winners will be announced at The Earthshot Prize Awards in [Rio de Janeiro](#) on **5 November**.

I don't know about you, but sometimes I feel the 'doom and gloom' around our environmental challenges is almost too much to bear. Then along comes the Earthshot Prize and we see how human endeavour can be used to help us get back on course in this nature and climate crisis. It is uplifting, inspiring and reassuring in a world where we seem to spend more time and money on ripping up the planet and killing our fellows than being deserving of the self-appointed title of 'intelligent ape'.

Amongst this year's contenders for example, Tenure Facility is a global funding and legal mechanism dedicated to guaranteeing land and forest rights for Indigenous and, Afrodescendant Peoples, as well as local communities. By combining legal expertise with direct funding, Tenure Facility provides communities with the tools they need to secure their land rights, safeguarding ancestral homelands and ensuring long-term stewardship of forests and ecosystems. Also on the theme of nature protection and recovery, re.green uses AI and satellite data to make reforestation pay, restoring Brazil's Atlantic Forest at scale while protecting its vital biodiversity, and supporting local communities, and The Tropical Forest Forever Facility is the most ambitious forest protection fund in history, creating a \$125 billion programme to pay countries in return for safeguarding their forests.

The other categories in which projects have been developed are: Clean our Air, Revive our Oceans, Build a Waste-free World, and Fix our Climate.

If we were thinking locally, there would be a place for projects contributing to any of these, but also the plight of our Rivers Severn and Stour, and how to implement the Worcestershire Local Nature Recovery Strategy. The LNRS is rich in the right aspirations, but it is down to us to come up with ideas as to how its targets can be reached. We all consume energy, emit carbon dioxide, benefit from plastic packaging, and produce sewage. There have to be ways in which we can reduce the impact of all these locally, and I think we should be offering prizes for the best ideas, as does the Earthshot prize internationally.

If we were designing a local prize, we would need to have categories to provide the 'level playing field', such as one for schools and higher education establishments, and another for industry. Setting up such a scheme requires financial backing and assembling people with the right skills. These may be widely-drawn, and not necessarily from those who are already active on the environmental stage. After all, such schemes should have economic advantages as well as environmental gain, and we need that range of expertise.

I do not claim to have any of these attributes, but feel it is right to share the idea. Could anyone to whom it appeals get in touch with me on meaderoger7@gmail.com so we can discuss the next steps? The first will be to find someone willing and able to drive it forward.

Roger Meade

Bewdley's Communities Against River Pollution

World Rivers Day - a wave of success!

Call to action - River Guardian Volunteers required.

The event was endorsed by Rock legend, Robert Plant, with a video message of support from Jim Murray, MBE (Actor, Environmental activist and deputy chair of River Action)

100 attendees crammed into Bewdley Baptist Church to hear a welcome from Bewdley Mayor, Nicole Harper followed by very informative talks on the problems the River Severn (and other rivers in the UK) faced with sewage spills and agricultural run-off being the main source of this pollution.

From Trevor Ponman & Roger Meade they learned about CARP's progress during the last year with extra teams chemically testing the River Severn in 3 locations in Bewdley and 2 in Stourport, a sewage spill alert system and invertebrate sampling which were all helping to build a picture of the high pollution levels. CARP's future plans involve the launch of a monthly CARP Newsletter, plus regular meetings with CARP supporters, links with other Citizen Science groups along the Severn and Stour to help achieve a whole-river perspective and a new River Guardian scheme.

Melissa Green, (CEO of the Women's Institute) outlined how the WI had historically campaigned for clean rivers and were still at the forefront of this with them calling for Bathing water designation, stronger water regulations and nature-based solutions to agricultural pollution. They are also focusing on the high level of microplastics in sewage which many attendees were keen to learn about. **Members of Bewdley WI were present supporting CARP and provided delicious cakes & refreshments.**

Richard Perrin (Bewdley Civic society) gave an engaging presentation on 150 years history of the River Severn, with some fascinating photos capturing how the river had changed over time.

Drew Richardson (River Action) told all about his organisation's campaign successes to reduce pollution in the River Wye and their successful legal challenge against the expansion of Industrial chicken farms in Shropshire (one of the sources of pollution in both River Severn and Wye) River Action are also supporting groups along the River Severn so that they can exchange information and data to get a complete picture of the river.

Local Sabrina poets (with Pete Thompson, Worcestershire Literary Champion 2025-27) provided beautiful and moving river poetry which engaged people's emotions and connected everyone to the river in a very meaningful way. A pamphlet of this poetry is available to buy from CARP.

Dee Edwards, (CARP chair) said:

"The whole day was so stimulating. People listened and learned and then were invited to respond with ideas. These ideas (captured by graphic artists and on video) will help CARP in its future planning and campaigning. The day also launched a new River Guardians initiative. We are looking for about 10 volunteers to regularly monitor specific stretches of the river, observing outfalls and possible pollution sites. Training will be available for these guardians.

More volunteers are also needed to join our campaign group. World Rivers Day is a celebration of rivers and importantly a call to action. If anyone is interested, please email severncarp123@gmail.com

Dee Edwards chair of CARP

Spotlight on Wyre Forest District Council – Home Upgrade Grant Success

Wyre Forest District Council (WFDC) supported 76 homes with energy efficiency improvements using the governments Home Upgrade Grant last year.



The scheme, which is now closed, utilised £1,286,896 to deliver improvements such as insulation and heating improvements to the 76 homes. The funding was designed to help residents on low incomes in privately rented and privately owned homes not on the mains gas network. The package of improvements was tailored to each property and provided 64 Solar PV systems, 50 insulation improvements (such as loft and cavity wall insulation) and installed 17 Air Source Heat Pumps. Additionally, 40 of the properties received improvements to ventilation through the installation of extractor fans to help improve internal air quality. WFDC were supported in the delivery of the scheme by energy advice charity Act on Energy and Installer Broad Oak Properties Ltd. All works were provided with insurance backed guarantees and Trustmark certification to ensure compliance to current standards and regulations.

Analysis of national statistics provided by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (the government department that provided the funding) shows Wyre Forest District Council delivered improvements to double the average amount of homes compared to other local authorities delivering the funding and was within the top 15% of top performers for the number of homes delivered.

WFDC have since secured another £1,275,000 of capital funding from DESNZ to deliver the Warm Homes: Local Grant. The funding is for residents who own or privately rent their home regardless of heating type.

To be eligible, residents must have a household income of less than £36,000 per year before tax or be in receipt of a specified means tested benefit.

Additionally, the property must have an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) of D, E, F or G. A free EPC can be provided for the property if it does not have one and is likely to be eligible.



People can check their eligibility by scanning the QR code

More information on the Warm Homes: Local Grant project can also be found on the Wyre Forest District Council website.

Enquiries can be made directly to Wyre Forest District Council through their free advice line on 01562 732190 or by email:

privatesectorhousing@wyreforestdc.gov.uk