

WFGA Newsletter. October 2025

Wednesday 1st October - 10.30am. [Litter Pickers](#). St Chad's Church, Kidderminster

Thursday 2nd October - 9.30am. [Litter Pickers](#). St Anne's Church, Bewdley

Saturday October 4th 10am to 1pm. [Kidderminster Repair Café](#)

Monday 6th October 8.0 pm. [Green Drinks](#) at Bewdley Rowing Club
"The world will be saved by musicians; artistes; performers, rather than by

Tuesday 14th October - 11am. [Litter Pickers](#). St Michael's Church, Stourport

Monday 13th October - 10.30 am. [Litter Pickers](#). Franche Road Co-op. Kidderminster

Wednesday 15th October 9.0am – 1.0pm [spoon carving course](#) at St. Georges Farm.

Saturday 18th October 2.30 [Mayors Afternoon Tea](#)

Saturday 18th October 10.0 – 1.0 [Bewdley Repair Café](#) at The Wheatsheaf Rooms

Saturday, October, 25th, 10.30am – 3pm, [Halloween Nature Day](#), Bishops Wood Centre,

Sunday, October, 26th, 10.30am – 3pm, [Halloween Nature Day](#), Bishops Wood Centre,

Monday 27th October - 10.30. [Litter Pickers](#). Hartlebury Common, Sandy Lane

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Saturday October 4th 10am to 1pm. Kidderminster Repair Café at the Youth House, Bromsgrove Street, Bring your items for sharpening, sewing, electrical fixes, mechanical items, items for soldering or glueing, anything you can carry we can take a look at for you. Please ensure your items are clean and do not contain fuel. Donations only. Refreshments available. Are you a repairer yourself? Space available for someone with technical knowledge (particularly electrical) to join our talented volunteers in reducing waste, saving money, reducing the demand for raw materials, and generally doing something amazing! Do you have a particular set of skills? Get in touch or call in and see us. repaircafekidderminster@outlook.com

Monday 6th October 8.0 pm. Green Drinks at Bewdley Rowing Club
"The world will be saved by musicians; artistes; performers, rather than by environmentalists." A challenging statement but maybe people are tiring of being preached at by

environmental activists with messages of doom and despair? We will discuss the role that the arts and culture can play in mending the prevailing divisions in Society and the challenges of trying to ensure a positive future for our environment, our communities and our descendants. Expect lively discussions, a range of opinions and perspectives and a supportive atmosphere. Oh, and a well-stocked bar with local beers etc.

Monday 13th October - 10.30 am. Litter Pickers. Franche Road Co-op. Kidderminster

Tuesday 14th October - 11am. Litter Pickers. St Michael's Church, Stourport

Wednesday 15th October 9.0am – 1.0pm spoon carving course at St. Georges Farm.

To raise funds for the development of our new education room. We are trying to create a social hub where local conservation groups can gather and use as a base.

Participants will learn the techniques used to rough out with axes and hand carve a simple spoon using straight and hook knives. Further details are on our website www.wyreclt.org.uk

Saturday 18th October 2.30 [Mayors Afternoon Tea](#)

Saturday 18th October 10.0 – 1.0 Bewdley Repair Café at **The Wheatsheaf Rooms** 21 Load St, Bewdley DY12 2AE. (behind the Bewdley Institute). A change of location for this session as our regular venue at St Georges Hall is in use for the Bewdley Festival.

Our Repair Café session coincides with **International Repair Day**. This is organised by The Open Repair Alliance. <https://openrepair.org> . **International Repair Day is an annual celebration for everyone who makes repair happen in their communities around the world.** Every October they celebrate the power of repair to bring our communities together, reduce our impact on the planet, learn new skills and so much more. Whether you're a repairer, community organiser, tinkerer, maker, repair business, campaigner or simply a fan of fixing, there are lots of ways to join in as well as bringing your items for repair at the Repair Cafe. When software updates stop coming, perfectly good hardware is being discarded, undermining our community's efforts and feeding the growing mountain of e-waste. Our friends at Numlock Solutions (formerly known as The Zoo) at the top of Load Street will be around to help you if you are affected by the end of support for Windows 10 for example.

Saturday, October, 25th, 10.30am – 3pm, Halloween Nature Day, Bishops Wood Centre, DY13 9SE

Sunday, October, 26th, 10.30am – 3pm, Halloween Nature Day, Bishops Wood Centre, DY13 9SE. Want to get the kids outside? Look no further.... We have plenty to do, all this for only £5 per person.

Scarecrow Trail

Crafts to take home

Wildlife experiences

Mud kitchen and Den building

Halloween Alley

Plus back this year.... Svartland Viking Group! plus to warm up those hands The Peaky Grinder will be joining us too. Get booking as its set to be a great day!

<https://www.field-studies-council.org/courses-and-experiences/static-courses/eco-adventures-at-bishops-wood/>

Monday 27th October - 10.30. Litter Pickers. Hartlebury Common, Sandy Lane

Wyre Forest Litter Pickers. On the 30th of August as a group of 9 volunteer litter pickers we tackled the heinous litter build up behind a fence on the Stourbridge road, a sight that has bugged me as a litter picker ever since I began litter picking the Horsefair area.

Working as a team to dig, cut back and gather all the litter, a few vintage finds, 35p can of coke June 96 best before, even older pineapple drink as shown by the old-style ring pull opening, a can and a crisp packet from 2005- 20yrs and still not deteriorated.

Thankfully armed with pickers, ladders, bags and determination we cleared around 15 bags from the fence and some surrounding areas. Many thanks to those who got involved today, it's soo much better now it's been cleared and thanks to the council worker who was off duty but phoned into the depot to make sure our bags would all be collected promptly. I can say as someone who regularly drives past this fence that it currently remains litter free, which is amazing.



These are events we will be supporting.

St Chad's Church, Kidderminster - Wednesday 1st October - 10.30am

St Anne's Church, Bewdley - Thursday 2nd October - 9.30am

St Michael's Church, Stourport - Tuesday 14th October - 11am

Franchise Road Co-op. Kidderminster - Monday 13th October - 10.30 am

Hartlebury Common, Sandy Lane - Monday 27th October - 10.30

Citizen Science - A new book from WFGA member Wilson Wall of the U3A Environmental Concern Group.

The cover illustration is of a range of shark and ray egg cases found by the Penparcau citizen scientists who collect these annually from Cardigan bay. This has shown that this is an area of breeding importance for the Nursehound Dogfish. This is one of many examples in the book which also gives information and resources for those who wish to create their own projects, including the best ways to avoid previous mistakes. Ensuring that results are both reliable and informative is a key part of the text. There is a flow to the narrative which charts the historical development of citizen science from its earliest days with amateur individuals working on their own, to the modern incarnation which often sees large numbers of people cooperating on environmental and health projects.



CITIZEN SCIENCE IN BIOLOGY

The History and Development
of Public Participation in Science

 PELAGIC

Wilson Wall
& David Morgan

Better Banking. WFGA asked Steering Group member Geo Meadows to produce this overview

The climate crisis could get more serious faster than expected as tripping points start to kick in now that we have now passed the 1.5C target. Basically our predicament has been brought about by our copious fossil fuel use, a global consumption rate that is still increasing, in spite of huge solar and wind contributions to our energy supply. We are sleep-walking into a global catastrophe, aware of the facts but seemingly unable to act.

There is one simple action that everyone can take, at no personal risk, at no significant cost, needing little effort, and requiring only 30 minutes of your time.

Move all money, especially savings, away from organisations that do ecological harm, to organisations that actually use the money to do some good. This helps reduce funding for fossil fuel exploration and extraction, and makes more money available for installing wind and solar. A double win. And if you decide to close a bank account, tell the bank why. They just hate losing customers, customer's money is their life-blood.

The independent Ethical Consumer organisation has various ratings tables highlighting the good and bad banks, for both current accounts and savings. The attached ratings tables cover most UK banks and have been produced from data on the there are factors such as arms sales, the level of CEO pay, average employee pay, environmental damage, etc. Some banks are dedicated to selecting where the money they lend out goes on an ethical basis, most are not, they just want the best financial return. A bank with a high rating will generally be ethical in all areas including avoiding contributing to climate change.

Current Accounts			
Brand Name of the company	Score (out of 100)		
Danske Bank current accounts		Danske Bank A/S	10
Triodos current accounts	96	Triodos Bank UK Limited	
ICI current account		ICI Bank UK PLC	10
Co-op Bank/Smile	74	Co-operative Bank Holdings Limited	
Bank of Scotland current accounts		Bank Of Scotland	6
Cumberland Building Society current accounts	72	Cumberland Building Society	
Lloyds Bank current accounts		Lloyds Bank plc	6
Nationwide current accounts	70	Nationwide Building Society	
First Direct current accounts		HSBC UK Bank Plc	2
Monzo current account	54	Monzo Bank Limited	
HSBC bank accounts		HSBC UK Bank Plc	2
Virgin Money current accounts	48	Virgin Money UK PLC	
NatWest current accounts		NatWest	2
Starling Bank current accounts	46	Starling Bank Limited	
Royal Bank of Scotland current accounts		Royal Bank of Scotland	2
Revolut personal account	38	Revolut Ltd	
Santander current accounts		Banco Santander, S.A.	2
Metro Bank current accounts	34	Metro Bank Plc	
Barclays current accounts		Barclays Bank Plc	0
TSB current accounts	18	TSB bank plc	

The fact that you are actually reading this to the end means that it is highly likely that you care about the ongoing destruction of the planet being wreaked by fossil fuels. Please, please, check out your bank and consider moving to a better one if need be!

Geo Meadows

Savings Accounts	
Brand 	Score  (out of 100)
Name of the company	
Ecology Building Society Company Profile: Ecology Building Society	100
Charity Bank savings account Company Profile: Charity Bank Ltd	96
Triodos savings accounts Company Profile: Triodos Bank UK Limited	96
Leeds Building Society Company Profile: Leeds Building Society	84
Co-op Bank/Smile Company Profile: Co-operative Bank Holdings Limited	74
West Bromwich Building Society Company Profile: West Bromwich Building Society	74
Cumberland Building Society savings accounts Company Profile: Cumberland Building Society	72
Nationwide savings accounts Company Profile: Nationwide Building Society	70
NS&I savings Company Profile: National Savings and Investments (HM Treasury)	50
Virgin Money savings accounts Company Profile: Virgin Money UK PLC	48
Yorkshire Bank current & savings accounts Company Profile: Yorkshire Bank Plc	48
Starling Bank savings account Company Profile: Starling Bank Limited	46
Metro Bank savings accounts Company Profile: Metro Bank Plc	34
Post Office savings accounts Company Profile: Bank of Ireland (UK) plc	30
TSB savings accounts Company Profile: TSB Bank plc	18
Bank of Scotland savings accounts Company Profile: Bank of Scotland	6
Halifax savings accounts Company Profile: HBOS Plc	6
Lloyds Bank current accounts Company Profile: Lloyds Bank plc	6
First Direct savings accounts Company Profile: HSBC UK Bank Plc	2
HSBC savings accounts Company Profile: HSBC UK Bank Plc	2
NatWest savings accounts Company Profile: NatWest	2
Royal Bank of Scotland savings accounts Company Profile: Royal Bank of Scotland	2
Barclays savings accounts Company Profile: Barclays Bank Plc	0
Tesco savings accounts Company Profile: Barclays Plc	0

THE MAYOR AND MAYORESS OF KIDDERMINSTER,
COUNCILLOR DOUG HINE AND ROS HINE INVITE YOU TO

THE MAYOR'S AFTERNOON TEA



Saturday 18th October 2025
The Courtyard Cafe, Town Hall, Vicar Street,
Kidderminster, DY10 1DA
2.30pm
£15 per person

Proceeds to go to the Mayor's chosen charities:
Kidderminster Foodbank
Kidderminster and District Youth Trust (KDYT)
Worcestershire Wildlife Trust



Please RSVP by 10/10/2025

Mayor's Afternoon Tea

Saturday 18th October 2.30 pm

Doug Hine, Mayor of Kidderminster (and WFGA Steering Group Member) is inviting people to a Mayor's Tea Party to raise funds for his chosen charities, Kidderminster Foodbank, Kidderminster and District Youth Trust and Worcestershire Wildlife Trust.

Tickets £15 per person.

RSVP Office@kidderminstertowncouncil.gov.uk

Spotlight. Why the Arts Might Be the Most Powerful Tool in Climate Activism

John Frost C5 Leadership & Bass Player, Rebel and the Banned



The climate crisis is the greatest challenge of our time, and yet facts alone have failed to inspire the urgency needed. Charts, graphs, and political promises may dominate headlines, but they rarely move people to act. What cuts through indifference is not always data, but feeling. That is why the arts are a vital weapon in the climate movement sometimes more powerful than direct action itself.

Art humanizes the abstract. Rising sea levels are statistics; a photograph of a family watching their flooded home sink beneath the tide is a story. When Icelandic artist Olafur Eliasson placed blocks of melting glacial ice outside the Tate Modern, Londoners didn't just read about climate change they touched it, watched it vanish before their eyes. That's the power of art: it bypasses the intellect and lands in the gut.



The arts also reach audiences that traditional activism struggles to touch. A protest may make headlines, but it can also divide. A mural, a play, or a film invites people in without demanding immediate agreement. It can spark curiosity, reflection, and conversation where confrontation might close doors. In this way, art broadens the circle of climate concern, pulling in those who might otherwise turn away from activism.



Some argue that art is too soft compared to direct action, that painting or performance cannot force governments to legislate or companies to change course. And they're right, to a point. Direct action, strikes, blockades, protests, creates disruption and immediate political pressure. But art builds something deeper: cultural momentum. It shapes how we imagine the future and whether we believe change is possible. Without culture, politics stalls.

The truth is that art and direct action are not rivals but partners. Movements need both the spark of protest and the staying power of imagination. When activists march with banners painted by artists, when songs echo through demonstrations, when climate fiction fuels public debate, art and action fuse into something bigger. Protest without culture

risks burning out; culture without protest risks fading away. Together, they can transform urgency into lasting change.

So are the arts more powerful than direct action? In some ways, yes, they change hearts in ways disruption alone cannot. But their true strength lies in amplification. The arts make us care. And once we care deeply, we are far more likely to act.

If we want a movement that not only forces change but sustains it, we need more than roadblocks and rallies. We need painters, poets, filmmakers, musicians, and storytellers. Because in the fight for the planet, data may persuade; but it is art that inspires.