

WFGA September 2025 Newsletter

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Monday 1st September. Green Drinks. Heat Waves! 8.0 pm at Bewdley Rowing Club. We Brits love to complain about the weather but it is very unusual for us to complain about it being too hot and dry! Climate Change means that these will be frequent. Devastating for our farmers, our infrastructure, gardens and rivers. Extreme heat affects us all – but some communities and people are affected more than others, including older and disabled people, young children, people with health issues and hospital patients. Join us to discuss how we might adapt our homes, our streets and our lives to cope with the oncoming climate chaos, particularly heat-waves.

Tuesday 2nd September, 7.30-9.0 PM. 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 1207181

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. Also, The Wyre Forest Liberal Democrats are looking to attend Stourport Carnival. We'll be encouraging people to support two campaigns:

Divesting the County Council pension fund:

<https://wmlibdems.typeform.com/WCCDivest>

And a parking scheme for health workers <https://www.westworcslibdems.org.uk/our-campaigns/let-nurses-park> . They hope other groups will also be there.

Tuesday 9th September 7.30-9PM Wyre Forest Climate Choir.

Rehearsals resume at Offmore Church Hall, Gray Close, Kidderminster DY10 3YE after our Summer break. A great time to join us for the first time. More information from Hilary at hilarymueller@hotmail.com

Tuesday 16th September, 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. Just come along or contact Dave on 0747 1207181

Saturday 20th September. Bewdley Repair Café. 10.0 – 1.0 at St Georges Hall.

We are back after the summer break when our wonderful volunteers will do their best to fix your items. No need to book, other than bikes (email john.rhymer50@gmail.com for bikes).

Tuesday 23rd September 7.30-9PM Wyre Forest Climate Choir.

Rehearsals at Offmore Church Hall, Gray Close, Kidderminster DY10 3YE. More information from Hilary at hilarymueller@hotmail.com

Sunday September 28th, 2:00 -6:00 pm World Rivers Day

Please come and join us on at Bewdley Baptist Church. Come prepared for great speakers and lively discussion.

Melissa Green CEO of the WI and Drew Richardson from River Action will inspire us with an insight into the sort of campaigning both groups have separately done to promote water quality.

Richard Perrin, Chair of Bewdley Civic Society will guide us in understanding how the river through Bewdley has changed over history.

Trevor Ponman and Roger Meade will bring you up to date on the progress made by CARP over the last year.

There will be videos to watch and poetry readings to listen to

You will learn about how to become a river steward so you can keep a close eye on the health of a small stretch of river.

Learn about our plan for a community river clean-up day.

Information stalls and tables will link you to local groups who care about our river.

There will be refreshments from Bewdley WI to provide energy for thinking and planning.

The health of the river concerns everyone. Please come!

Tuesday 30th 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. Just come along or contact Dave on 0747 1207181

The role of the Insurance Industry in Countering Climate Change.

An informative update on the role that the Insurance Industry were expected to play in addressing Climate Change and what has happened to that expectation. Listen to "Rare Earth – The Risk Takers" on BBC Radio 4. [Link](#)

Rights of Way. Message from Worcestershire County Council. We are reviewing our Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) and thought your members might be interested in contributing to the public survey. The ROWIP is an important document to help protect and improve public rights of way. The survey is at www.worcestershire.gov.uk/RoWIPengage or on Worcestershire CC website on Events page. It closes on 26th October 2025.

News from Wyre Community Land Trust

On the farm. Sally has had a busy time with her herd of Dexter cows. She has had 5 new arrivals, one of which, Truffle, was rejected by her mother. It has been a real team effort to hand rear her and she is doing well. Hats off to everyone involved for a sterling effort. The four other calves were named Teasel, Tulip, Thyme and Thistle.

The hot and dry weather has made life difficult for our herd (and wildlife in general). Our hay yield has halved this year meaning other sources of fodder will be needed to get through the winter. On site water sources have also dried up so Sally and the team of volunteers have had a busy time monitoring and filling troughs around the area from our water bowser. It looks like the weather is starting to cool down, hopefully leading to some much-needed rain, fingers crossed.

The hot weather hasn't stopped our conservation volunteers and they have been busy working on Worcestershire Wildlife Trust sites in the Wyre over the last few weeks. Work has been focused on controlling Himalayan balsam and cutting, raking and piling bracken before it spores. Bracken spreads rapidly using underground rhizomes and releases chemicals that can inhibit the growth of other plants. Controlling bracken on these sites is important to preserve the unimproved grassland found at Knowles meadow and Mackaness reserve and the heather at Pound Green Common. We are very lucky to be able to work on these beautiful sites and we are always rewarded for our hard work by the wildlife we see, such as this common green grasshopper that came to say hello.

Wildlife Champions

Our wildlife champions are currently very busy with three active surveys running at the moment. Our small mammal tunnels were installed at the start of June in three of the coppice coups on Ruskin Land, these are checked and reinked every two weeks. Our reptile refuges are also out and checked every month with several sightings of grass snake, slow worm and lizard already recorded under some of the refuges which is very exciting. Lastly butterflies are recorded on our transect from

the start of April until the end of September on a weekly basis. A huge thank you to all of our wildlife champions, keep up the great work.

Wyre Forest Cycle Forum.

Do you use bridleways or other off-road routes through the local countryside?

There are almost 3000 miles of public rights of way across Worcestershire. A public right of way is a path that anyone has the right to use. Many of these are available to cyclists – Bridleways, Restricted Byways and Byways. Others are currently footpaths only.

There is a recently launched consultation in Worcestershire on how this network could be improved locally.

Our public rights of way network, including footpaths, bridleways, and byways, is a valuable asset that connects communities, supports health and wellbeing, and offers access to the stunning Worcestershire countryside...

Your chance to influence the Worcestershire County Rights of Way Improvement Plan

The County Council is asking for feedback from local residents to help ensure their (RoWIP) Plan meets the needs of residents. At the end of the survey there is an opportunity to add detailed suggestions for improvements and priorities for the future. Don't miss out - the survey does not seem to have been widely advertised and is not very easy to spot on the Worcestershire County Council website. It runs until 26 October 2025.

To find the Rights of Way Improvement Plan you can either google 'Worcestershire RoWIP' or here is a [direct link](#) to the survey:

Why not join us?

Wyre Forest Cycle Forum works to improve cycling infrastructure across Wyre Forest. Date for your diary – the next meeting of the group will be on Wednesday 22 October 2pm at Wyre Forest House, Finepoint Way DY11 7WF. To find out more email: info@wyreforestcycling.co.uk

Spotlight on Friends of the Maypole – the ongoing journey

SAVING A VITAL BEWDLEY LANDMARK AS A SPACE FOR NATURE AND THE COMMUNITY

A historical area Bewdley's natural landscape, The Maypole Hill could be under threat and the people of the town are taking a stand. The Maypole has long been a haven for walkers, families, and nature lovers. Rich in biodiversity and local heritage, it offers a tranquil escape and essential habitat for birds, insects, and other wildlife. However, it is now on sale and at risk of being sold to developers — a move that could see this vital green space lost to housing or other commercial use.

The Friends of the Maypole (FoTM) was set up to purchase this cherished area of green space and put it into trust so that it is protected for wildlife and the wellbeing of current and future Bewdley generations.

When Friends of the Maypole came together in May this year, we knew the challenge was significant (just weeks to research, rally community, and prepare



and submit an offer by 12th June). But momentum grew quickly and what we've achieved in under 90 days (at time of writing) is nothing short of incredible.

Our Facebook Page (@friendsofthemaypole) has attracted over 1,200 followers; our campaign has appeared on ITV and BBC early evening news, and received extensive local press and radio coverage; we conducted a wide- reaching leaflet campaign, hosted a community drop-in session for local residents, and have held discussions with biodiversity experts, alongside receiving invaluable support from Worcestershire Wildlife Trust.

Perhaps the most significant show of support, however, was that from our supporters: in just 12 days, over 600 pledges were made – raising £130,000 in time for the deadline – enabling us to submit a credible bid, as serious contenders.

Since then, the land remains unsold and we understand no formal instructions have yet been given. In the meantime, we've continued to build momentum.

Thanks to an astounding charitable donation and the release of an incredible video-poem ('We are the Land') filmed on the Maypole itself, the pledge campaign now stands at £170,000! Additionally, we've become a registered charity (1214370) – meaning Gift Aid can now be applied to eligible pledges. All of this gets us much closer to the valuation that has been put on the Maypole and strengthens our negotiating position in relation to the sale of the land.

So, the campaign continues! And, if you can, please do get involved.

**This photograph from the 1930's shows Stanley Baldwin and his wife
at a fete on Maypole Piece**



Continued below

If you would like to contribute, the FotM would be delighted to welcome you.

Please get in touch via our Facebook page (@friendsofthemaypole) or email us at friendsofthemaypole@gmail.com

In addition, we are holding an afternoon for local residents to watch 'We Are the Land' and meet some of the trustees.

The venue is:

The Old Waggon and Horses, Wribbenhall, DY12 1DG on Wednesday 24th September at 3:00pm

Anyone who would like to attend this event, but requires help with transport, can phone 01299 403170 to arrange a lift from one of our team.

This article first appeared in The Bewdley Bridge Magazine in September 2025

