



WFGA NEWSLETTER

January 2023

[for laptop/printable version, click here](#)

The next newsletter will be in March. For February there will be a simple events mailout. If you have an event that you would like publicising, please send details by:

24th January for February mailout

22nd February for March newsletter

COP27 In A Nutshell

The 1.5C goal may still be physically possible to achieve, just, but Cop27 has shown it is politically impossible. As next year's COP is hosted by another petro-state we can kiss goodbye to the 1.5C limit. As usual the vested interests hold sway. So we move into a period of learning how to cope with the impending, knowingly self-inflicted catastrophe. We may take some comfort in the fact that a fund has been agreed to compensate the worst affected countries. You can read a comprehensive report [here](#).

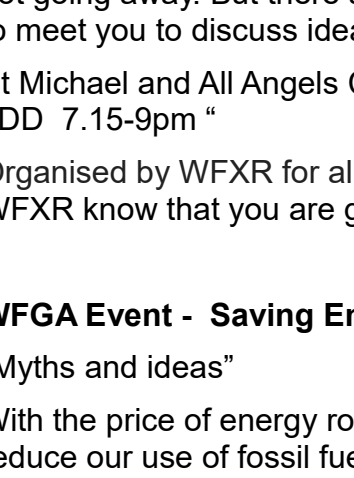
However, promising is one thing and actually stumping up the cash is another, especially as the global economy is currently in such poor health. The WHO ambassador for global health financing (Gordon Brown) has written an informed opinion on all this [here](#). And he's planning for COP28 already!

WFGA & MEMBER ORGANISATION EVENTS

**Your Event
could be
HERE !**

All you have to do is [tell us about it!](#)

Transition Kidderminster Repair Café - Sat 7th Jan



This popular free local service is here again ready to carry out all manner of repairs, sewing and tool sharpening.

Enjoy a free coffee and cake while you wait (optional donations welcome).

At Youth House, Bromsgrove Street, Kidderminster. DY10 1PF.

From 10am. Last check-in 1 pm.

WFGA Green Drinks Night – Mon 9th Jan

'Green Drinks' meetup provides an opportunity for informal discussions amongst like-minded people and indeed those with views different to our own. WFGA invites all supporters and members to join them (usually 1st Monday of each month)

The starting theme for discussion this month will be "Sustainable Transport". Discussions usually range widely, head off in different directions and often end in surprising places! We chat over a pint or two or coffee/tea if you prefer.

8.0pm at "The Great Western" on Kidderminster Road, Bewdley

Bishops Wood Centre Coppicing Day – Sat 14th Jan

A day of woodland management, coppicing Hazel Coups. This involves working in small teams on a tree, cutting off the stems of the tree and covering over the stool. It's a fun day, brilliant to blow away those winter cobwebs and get out in the fresh air for a few hours. It is an adult only event where all abilities are welcome.

10am – 2pm at Bishops Wood Centre

You can also join the Weekly Volunteer Groups on a Monday or Friday at 10am where all manner of jobs are carried out. It's a great way to get outside, meet new people and there's no need to be fit or knowledgeable!

For more information on either of the above , please email volunteers.bw@field-studies-council.org or visit the web site [here](#).

WFXR Climate Conversation - Tues 17th Jan

Open invitation from Wyre Forest XR:

"Are you worried about living in a hothouse? Maybe you are concerned about water shortages or river pollution? Or perhaps you are aware of the devastation of our ecological systems? "

2022 is a year in which we are really learning first-hand about the effects of climate change in the UK. And we know climate change is not going away. But there are things we can do and we would love to meet you to discuss ideas.

St Michael and All Angels Church, Church Drive, Stourport DY13 9DD 7.15-9pm "

Organised by WFXR for all WFGA members & supporters. Let WFXR know that you are going, on their Facebook page [here](#)

WFGA Event - Saving Energy in the Home - Thur 19th Jan

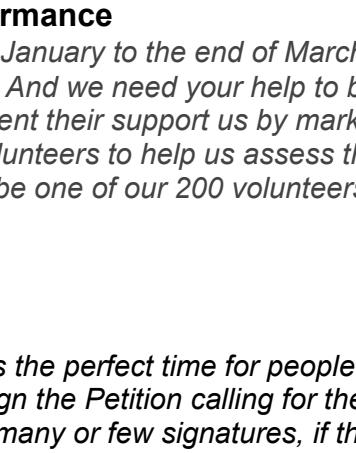
"Myths and ideas"

With the price of energy rocketing, together with the imperative to reduce our use of fossil fuels, we all want to reduce our electricity and gas bills. This online session will explore some tips that you may not have thought of, question some of the received wisdom and dispel some myths. 'Act On Energy' will help you save some money at the same time as helping protect the planet!

Online by 7pm Zoom. Book your free place on Eventbrite [here](#)

Transition Bewdley Repair Café - Sat 21st Jan

Bewdley Repair Café is at its usual St George's Hall venue. Bring your items for free repair or sharpening from 10am. Last check-in 1 pm.

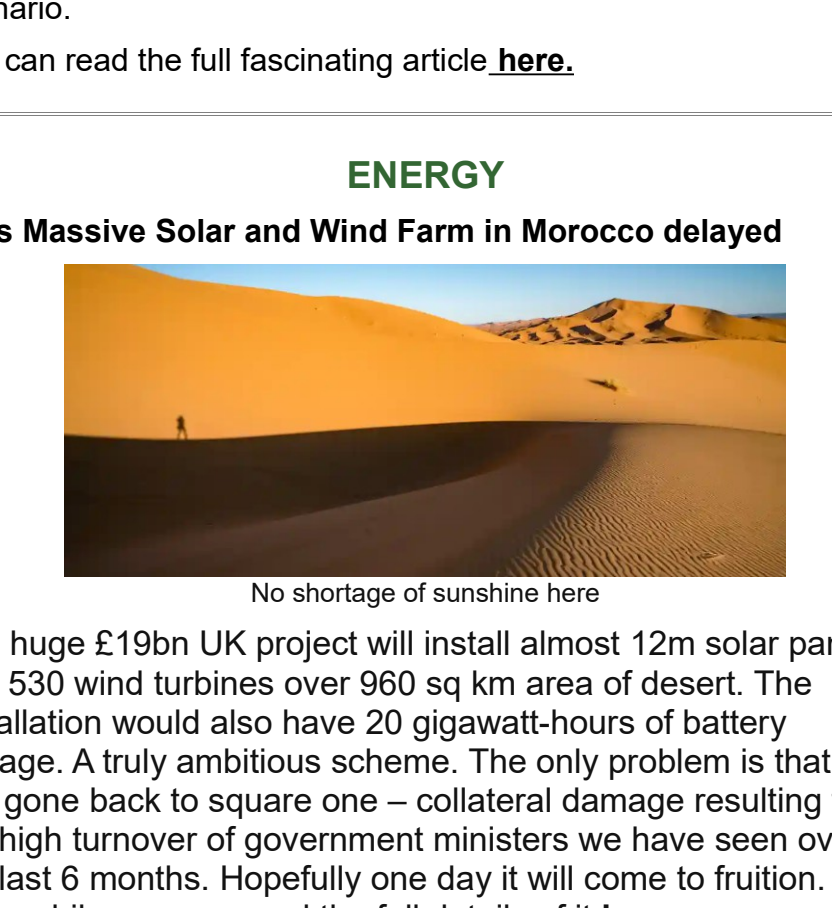


Christmas presents broken already? Bring them along so we can try and fix them. Especially toys! Time to get out in the garden again to burn off some of those festive calories? Why not bring your shears, secateurs and other garden tools for sharpening? Our expert volunteers will be on hand to do what they can to mend any item.

No need to book items other than bikes and furniture (for these, please email John Rhymmer at john.rhymmer50@gmail.com or ring 01299 403424)

And our local Repair Cafés are also helping people cope with the steep rises we are seeing in the cost of living. For an interesting read on repair shops (what we would call repair cafés!) read the full article [here](#). With Curry's forecasting a 10% rise in repair work this coming year our own repair people can expect to be busier than ever. If you have experience in repair work and would like to help please [email us](#) to arrange a meet-up at one of our repair bases.

WFGA Event - Dropping Wells Farm Project – Wed 8th Feb



Becky Somers will be telling us about this exciting **Worcestershire Wildlife Trust** project to restore lowland heathland. Dropping Well Farm sits in the middle of the Wildlife Trust reserves of The Devil's Spittleful and Blackstone Farm Fields, and e Wyre Forest District Council's Rifle Range and Burlish Top nature reserves. The long-term vision is to restore what is currently farmland at Dropping Well and give wildlife a tremendous boost.

From pantaloons bees and hornet robber-flies to common lizards and yellowhammers, this is a once in a generation opportunity to make a huge difference for our local wildlife.

Join the 7.30pm Zoom meeting to learn more and discuss the plans with Becky. Reserve your free ticket [here](#).

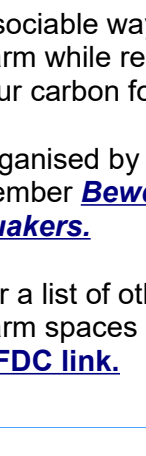
Learn a New Skill in 2023!

The Wyre Community Land Trust's Ruskin Club programme offers courses in nature and heritage crafts in **Ruskin Land**, in the heart of the Wyre Forest. You can join the expert team of crafters and conservationists and learn a wide range of skills including green woodworking, coppicing, wood carving and willow weaving. All details, including gift vouchers and course bookings, are available on their website: <http://www.wyrecit.org.uk/>

WFGA NEWS

WFGA awarded Funding

Some great news to share - we have been successful with two applications for the National Lottery Transition Seed Funding Grants.



This means we have £500 to support WFGA member events and £5,000 towards SustFest, which will enable us to appoint a part-time Coordinator. Great news indeed, and down to the work of the WFGA Steering Group, in particular Peter Miller and John Rhymmer, who jointly put in the legwork.

Ask Sunak to Restore Nature

This is a new campaign from the CE Bill support organisation Zero Hour (the WFGA is an official supporter). Their recent thrust is to get the government to act on Sunak's COP27 statement that "there's no solution to climate change without restoring nature". Please visit <https://www.zerohour.org.uk/ua4n> and help put pressure on the government to follow through on the promise.

On-line Carbon Footprint Calculator

Also from Zero Hour, it takes a little time, so do get back to this when you have 5 minutes to spare! Go to <https://carbonsavvy.uk/> And there's a related blog giving me very useful background information [here](#).

Email us your results – we can then put together a WFGA Members' Footprint distribution curve!

Tree Nursery Project

Volunteers from WFGA, led by tree growing experts from "Tree Spirit" have created a tree nursery at nearby Hawkbatch Farm.



finished rows of seed beds

Further work parties are planned for the New Year (watch out for announcement) to fence the nursery against deer and rabbits. We are grateful to District Councillor Claire Barnett for providing some funding from the Community Leadership Fund towards the purchase of materials.

WFGA Monthly Meetings – Call for Proposals

These are primarily for members of the many organisations that form the Green Alliance. Some events will also be open to the wider community. They will include workshops, walks, visits, discussions and talks, some online and others live.

We encourage our member organisations to arrange and host some of these meetings on behalf of the WFGA. Maybe you have a meeting planned for your own members that you would like to open to a wider audience?

Please get in touch at john.rhymmer50@gmail.com if you would like to contribute to the monthly programme for 2023.

Help Assess Council's Climate Performance

From Climate Action: "From the end of January to the end of March we will be marking council's climate action. And we need your help to be able to do this. Last year over 120 people lent their support us by marking plans and this year we need even more volunteers to help us assess the actual action councils are taking. Can you be one of our 200 volunteers to mark council climate action?"

Read more and volunteer [here](#).

Help Stop WFDC's Pesticide Use

From Pesticide Free WYRE Forest: "This is the perfect time for people to ask friends and family over Christmas to sign the Petition calling for the Ban of spraying pesticides. Nomatter how many or few signatures, if they contact me via the facebook page or email me at pesticidefreewyreforest@gmail.com I'll arrange collection of the petition."

Full info and PFWF petition form [here](#).

WFGA SustFest 2023

Planning continues on this, please consider how your organisation can help with an event and put it in your diary.

29th April to 14th May 2023

WFGA Donations Invited

We now have our own Wyre Forest Green Alliance bank account and welcome any donations to our funds that member organisations or individuals would like to make. We have expenses to cover for the coming year and donations are our only regular income. Can you help?

The sortcode is 30-99-50 and account number is 21253568.

POPULATION MATTERS

Will the Population Crisis resolve itself?

The decline in sperm count has doubled since 2000 and is accelerating. In other words, whatever is causing the decline is getting worse. And we don't really know what's behind it.

This may not be a bad thing in the short term since overpopulation and overconsumption are huge barriers to building sustainable societies. But there comes a point when, if fertility rates continue to fall, extinction of the human race becomes a not totally impossible scenario.

You can read the full fascinating article [here](#).

ENERGY

UK's Massive Solar and Wind Farm in Morocco delayed

No shortage of sunshine here

The huge £19bn UK project will install almost 12m solar panels and 530 wind turbines over 960 sq km area of desert. The installation would also have 20 gigawatt-hours of battery storage. A truly ambitious scheme. The only problem is that it's just gone back to square one – collateral damage resulting from the high turnover of government ministers we have seen over the last 6 months. Hopefully one day it will come to fruition. Meanwhile you can read the full details of it [here](#).

Meanwhile Cumbrian Coalmine gets Go-ahead!

Whitehaven mine site

After two years of indecision, with added delay caused by the Tory leadership changes, it's all go for Britain's first new coalmine in 50 years. There are convincing arguments both for and against the project and [this report](#) spells out all the details. It's not as clear cut as many reading this newsletter might assume. Do read the report, and then share your opinion and find out what others think by using this instant and anonymous [online poll](#). Remember to revisit in a week or so to see the latest results.

Renewables set to overtake Fossil Fuel

The International Energy Agency has predicted that renewable energy will overtake coal by 2025 and cites the Ukraine crisis as prompting countries to understand the link between renewables and energy security. So the fossil fuel supply crunch triggered by Russia's invasion of Ukraine does have an upside!

But we have an enormous task ahead – we are dependent on gas for over half our electrical energy. Follow [this link](#) to see how our electrical energy is currently being generated, or indeed imported.

New Government Home Insulation Fund

Starting in April 2023, £1bn will be available for up to 75% funding of insulation projects. It offers up to £15,000 a project and is aimed at the more affluent homeowner. It's a small fraction of what is really needed but it's certainly better than nothing. Start thinking about future-proofing your house, read more [here](#).

The funding will be administered by energy suppliers, unlike the green homes grant scheme that was axed last year.

Another Bewdley Warm Space opens for January

<p>Warm Space & Warm Welcome</p> <p>at the</p> <p>Bewdley Quaker Meeting House</p> <p>Enjoy coffee/tea/biscuits/chat</p> <p>Phone charging & WiFi</p> <p>all free!</p> <p>10am to 12pm each Saturday in January</p> <p>Everyone welcome - just turn up!</p> <p>For more information please ring our Clerk on 01299 405214</p> <p>You will find us at DY12 2DP end of High Street / bottom of Red Hill</p>	<p>A sociable way to stay warm while reducing your carbon footprint!</p> <p>Organised by WFGA member Bewdley Quakers.</p> <p>For a list of other local warm spaces see this WFDCC link.</p>
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GOOD READS OF THE MONTH

Reading this is like listening to a podcast, as David Attenborough's familiar voice seems to spill out of this book. It is beautifully written and excels in its clarity. At the beginning Sir David explains the many issues, using his life as a wildlife film maker as a backdrop. He then moves on to examine the future for humanity and all other species on the planet if ecological and climate issues are not addressed quickly enough. Finally he moves on to provide many examples of what can be achieved to mitigate the effects and to live sustainably. In all a surprisingly optimistic take given the dire state we are in. His optimism hinges on his faith in human ingenuity although as he points out, the problem we don't have a solution for is overcoming the financial and political power of vested interests.

This is an essential read for everyone interested in providing some sort of future for the coming generations. So that doesn't leave out many. We reviewed this book a year ago, but consider it's important enough to warrant a second mention.

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Another 'good read' is this amusing short article which parodies the UK's net zero ambitions. Read it [here](#).

GOOD NEWS OF THE MONTH

Is this the Tech Solution we've been waiting for?

According to [this article](#) by George Monbiot, yes! Basically, produce lab-grown meat, fish, eggs etc. that will require a fraction of the land, thus freeing off vast tracts of land and ocean for rewilding. This will then allow the eco system to recover from our ravages. A win-win. And if you are not a Monbiot fan, or would like second opinion on this 'too good to be true' story, you can read a similar but slightly more academic report [here](#).

Beef but not as you know it

Sign up to support the **Reboot Food** campaign at this [new website](#).

Many will be unconvinced that lab meat is the way forward. So we have another instant [online poll](#) for you. Please share your views and come back later to see the results. .

US clears way for sale of lab grown meat

And coincidentally, the US Food and Drug Administration has just decided to allow a California company called Upside Foods to take living cells from chickens and grow them in a controlled laboratory environment to produce a meat product that doesn't involve the actual slaughter of any animals. This is an incredibly important step in opening up the lab-food market. Read the report [here](#).

Lincolnshire rewilding scheme takes off

Boothby Lodge Farm was purchased last year by a rewilding consortium and the restoration process has now begun. One third of cropland has been taken out of production. The farm's final harvest will occur in 2024, after which wildflowers and trees will begin to cover the land. How they intend producing an income makes interesting reading and some are concerned about losing productive farmland. Read the pros and cons of the debate over this project [here](#).

Plans for re-introduction of Wildcats

Early feasibility studies are under way to bring back this important predator to England – they are still around in small numbers in remote parts of Scotland. There are problems to be addressed but that we are seriously planning this at all is hugely encouraging. More [here](#).

RECYCLING SITES

Re-use that old WiFi Router

Most of us will probably have a WiFi router gathering dust. For some ideas on how to put it to good use (if you have strong technology skills that is!) have a read of [this article](#).

Don't Bin it – Recycle it – Find out Where

Need to dispose of electrical goods – phones, laptops, batteries, even printer cartridges? Check out [this web site](#) for your nearest collection point.

And consider these:

- [Wyre Forest Waste Exchange](#)
- [Wyre Forest Freegle](#)

Refill your old Laser Printer Cartridges

Reduce your plastic waste, your carbon footprint, and the outflow of mega-bucks to the printer manufacturers, by refilling your laser printer cartridges instead of buying new. [Here's a video](#) for the HP 254 series – there are many others, contact Brum-based U Refill [here](#) for a link for your printer. The videos are great fun and have lots of great eco footage too! Give them a try – highly recommended.

If you didn't receive a copy of **previous WFGA Newsletters**, you can download PDF versions of all of them from the 'Resources' page on [our website](#). Choose from a phone friendly version or a readily printable laptop version.

Remember to visit our WFGA Facebook page for topical, interesting posts and for any late updates to events – and please feel free to add your own posts or comments. If you have a view on any of the pieces in this WFGA Newsletter this can be your platform!

We reserve the right to edit any submitted articles etc to ensure brevity and/or to match the overall style of the newsletter.

Click [here](#) to visit.

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