

## Wyre Forest Green Alliance July dates and newsletter

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July Kidderminster Repair Café. The Kidderminster Youth House 10.0 – 1.0** Join the wonderful volunteers who will not only help mend or sharpen your items but also serve you tea and cake! All for free, but donations welcomed. No session in August so hurry along to this session in July!

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July. 8.0 pm Green Drinks.** Hosted by Transition Bewdley. All welcome. **New venue, Bewdley Rowing Club.** Starter topic; “how to engage with the middle 60% of people who are largely in favour of climate action but not active in making it happen (20% already active and 20% dead against)?”

**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July 7.30 pm for 8.0 pm start. Rotary in the Wyre Forest Quiz Night.** The Bewdley Inn 14 Kidderminster Road, Bewdley. £2.50 per person. text or whatsapp 07904 110346 for more details and to book. More details [below](#).

**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July pm Field trip to Fenn’s & Whixall Mosses.**

Organised by Wyre Forest Friends of the Earth on behalf of WFGA. Please contact Roger Meade on [meaderoger7@gmail.com](mailto:meaderoger7@gmail.com) [Details](#).

**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July Wyre Forest Friends of the Earth meeting. 7.30 pm** in the Harriers Social Club, Hoo Road, Kidderminster. All welcome. [Details](#)

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> July. Bewdley Repair Café. 10.0 – 2.0** (last entry 1.0 pm) Our amazingly skilled repairers will sharpen your garden tools and kitchen knives, assess and try to mend your household appliances, garments, clocks, bikes etc. If you can carry it in, we will try to fix it! Surprise us! No booking required except bikes (book bikes by contacting [john.rhymer50@gmail.com](mailto:john.rhymer50@gmail.com) )

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July 1.0 – 4.0 pm Community Listening Café with Worcestershire Wildlife Trust .** St Peters Church, 5 Meredith Green, Birchen Coppice, Kidderminster, DY117EJ. This event is for anyone interested in Taking Action for Nature in the communities surrounding our beautiful heathland reserves. See [advert](#) below.

**4 days from Tue 25, July 2023 - Fri 28, July 2023 9:30 - 16:00**

**John Muir Discover Award** - Join us and achieve the John Muir Award. There are four challenges at the heart of each John Muir Award and through this 4-day course you will complete the following... Discover a wild place, Explore it, Do something to Conserve it, Share your experience. £180 per child This course is suitable for children aged 10+Bring packed lunch and drinks. Bring appropriate clothing and footwear for being outside. Activities are subject to change, depending on the weather. <https://www.field-studies-council.org/courses-and-experiences/static-courses/eco-adventures-at-bishops-wood/>

### Also in the newsletter

**Climate Ready Plan** from [Aviva](#)

**Air Pollution Measurement System** by Geo Meadows


**Spotlight** on Wyre Forest Friends of the Earth who are organising the [Field trip](#) to Fenn’s & Whixall Mosses.

**Finally:** [Wild Justice](#) campaign to control sea-bed dredging. and

[Fungi store carbon](#) new research shows how much carbon can be stored by fungi in the soil. Yet another reason to care for our soil

## More information and News

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July Rotary in the Wyre Forest Quiz Night.

**ROTARY IN THE WYRE FOREST**  
A NEW SATELLITE GROUP OF: Bewdley Rotary 

# QUIZ NIGHT

WHEN? Wednesday 5th July  
TIME? 7.30pm for 8.00pm start

**NEW! Smart Phone Quiz**


Or bring a Tablet to Share

WHERE?  
The Bewdley Inn  
14 Kidderminster Road,  
Bewdley DY12 1AG

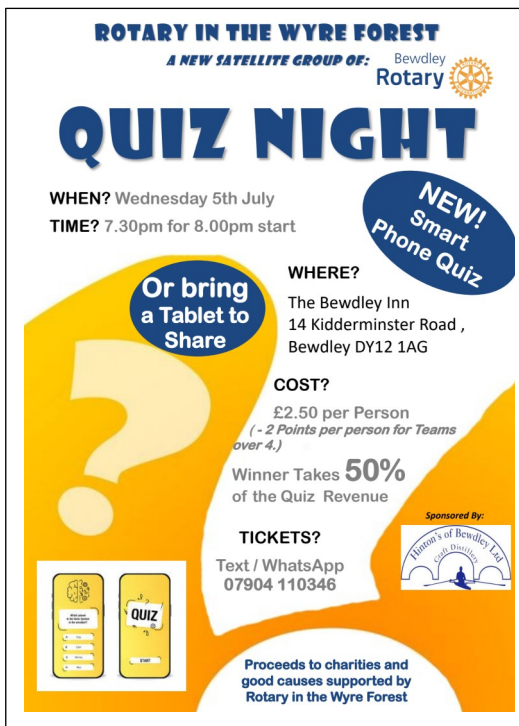
COST?  
£2.50 per Person  
(- 2 Points per person for Teams over 4.)

Winner Takes **50%** of the Quiz Revenue

TICKETS?  
Text / WhatsApp  
07904 110346

Sponsored By: 

Proceeds to charities and good causes supported by Rotary in the Wyre Forest



Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July 1.0 – 4.0 pm  
Community Listening Café

## Community listening cafe

 Worcestershire Wildlife Trust

Would you like to be part of a network which supports community action for nature in the Wyre Forest?

- Meet like-minded people
- Share your thoughts on how to make a difference in your community
- Discuss how we can support you to take action for nature!

**When?**

- Thursday 20th July
- 1pm until 4pm

**Where?**

- St Peters Church, 5 Meredith Green, Birchen Coppice, Kidderminster, DY11 7EJ

**Confirm your place**

- Scan the QR code or call 07399 108421
- [bit.ly/community-listening-cafe](http://bit.ly/community-listening-cafe)

Scan me 

 Made possible with Heritage Fund



**Insurance Companies** have been taking the risks of the Climate Emergency seriously for many years. **Aviva** is helping people discover how sustainable their lifestyle is and to receive a personalised action plan that will give them and their households the opportunity to improve their climate readiness.

<https://myclimatereadyplan.aviva.co.uk/dashboard>

### Air Pollution Measurement System.

Man-made air pollution is a major cause of diseases such as lung cancer, stroke, heart disease, asthma resulting in around 30,000 premature deaths each year in the UK alone.

The Covid episode has highlighted how susceptible our lungs are to invasion by a virus. It would seem we need to take more precautions over what we breath in general.

It seems reasonable to know what levels we are subjected to. Some pollution is beyond our control as individuals – traffic, industrial. But some is self-inflicted – barbecues, wood burning stoves, coal fires. garden fires – and therefore controllable. But how much pollution do these activities really produce. The simple answer is – measure it!

WFGA member Geo Meadows has constructed an air pollution monitor based on a Raspberry Pi.

If you'd like to read about this ongoing project please visit the blog at <https://rasppipollutionmonitor.blogspot.com/>

Geo would be interested in hearing from anyone with an interest in this project, you can email him at [geowarm3@gmail.com](mailto:geowarm3@gmail.com)

## Spotlight on Wyre Forest Friends of the Earth (A WFGA member organisation)

### Field trip to Fenn's & Whixall Mosses.

Organised by Wyre Forest Friends of the Earth on behalf of WFGA

Following a talk given about wetlands as part of *SustFest Wyre Forest 2023*, Roger Meade is organising a trip to a type of wetland we do not have locally, but which is of great importance in climate remediation. Fenn's, Whixall, Bettisfield, Wem and Cadney Mosses SSSI, to give it its full name, is in Shropshire, a few miles south of Whitchurch. It's a big site at around 900ha, and is a remnant of a lowland raised bog, the type of wetland which, when in good condition, is capable of



capturing significant quantities of atmospheric carbon. It is also a key biodiversity area. Details of habitat, flora and fauna include twenty-one species of Odonata (dragonflies/damselflies), including the nationally rare species white faced darter *Leucorrhinia dubia* and variable damselfly *Coenagrion pulchellum*. The Mosses support locally important colonies of small pearl-bordered fritillary *Boloria selene* and are the southern-most locality in England for the large heath butterfly *Coenonympha tullia*. Other species of note include the raft spider *Dolomedes fimbriatus*, the bog bush cricket *Metrioptera brachyptera* and the nationally rare caddisfly *Hagenella clathrata* known at only two other sites in Britain.

### Never seen a Sphagnum moss, or tried to distinguish the different species? Join us!

We have arranged with Natural England to visit on the afternoon of 10<sup>th</sup> July 2023. As things stand, we plan to make our own way there with lift-sharing but will look into the possibility of hiring a minibus once final numbers are known. If you have not booked already but are interested, please contact Roger on [meaderoger7@gmail.com](mailto:meaderoger7@gmail.com).

Continues below.

## Wyre Forest Friends of the Earth Local Group

Firstly, I'd like to celebrate the fifty years that Phil Oliver and Dave Finch have put into our local FoE Group. There will be more from them as both Phil and Dave remain as active members, with Dave carrying on as Treasurer. I have just taken on the role of Coordinator from Phil, though this job was done by Dave until a couple of years ago. So, many thanks to both of them, and all the best for the future. Maybe in the next newsletters they could describe some of the past highlights?

Meanwhile, we must work towards new ones. There is so much to do, ranging from international down to local, though we may want to concentrate on the latter. The FoE website categorises all the subjects quite nicely, so these are set out below, together with the local initiatives – of both FoE and other groups –.

Range of topics covered nationally by FoE			
Climate	Nature	System change	Consumption
Fossil-free	Save our bees	Trade	Plastics
Energy crisis	Double tree cover	Planning & environmental law	Fishing & the environment
Green jobs	Planet over profit	Anti-racism	Food and the environment
Local issues & initiatives			
Warm homes	1000 ponds	C&E Bill signatures	Green cobbler
Climate action	Tree nursery	Transport	Waste food
	Groundwater		Repair cafe
	Water quality		Share hubs

In particular, we have to develop relationships with new Wyre Forest District councillors and make sure green issues are high on the agenda. Although the council have a Climate Action Plan, results from Score Cards show they are well down in the England league. We will do all we can to encourage a better score.

([https://www.climatescorecard.org/?gclid=CjwKCAjwyqWkBhBMEiwAp2yUFh\\_j\\_40FdCuK4FKjPUBL5gMlvrSKDsWvApa1KUuEMoxpPVEav4PzLxoCRSMQAvD\\_BwE](https://www.climatescorecard.org/?gclid=CjwKCAjwyqWkBhBMEiwAp2yUFh_j_40FdCuK4FKjPUBL5gMlvrSKDsWvApa1KUuEMoxpPVEav4PzLxoCRSMQAvD_BwE))

Many of you will have signed the petition for our MP Mark Garnier to support the Climate & Ecology Bill, yours is now one of well over 300. We will be thinking about when and how to deliver these to him before the Bill returns to the Commons on 24<sup>th</sup> November this year.

The Warm Homes Campaign has been listed in the above table under climate, in that it will have the dual benefit of making crucial domestic energy more affordable with a much reduced or zero carbon footprint. We want all local organisations to sign up to this national FoE Campaign so that the present and future governments will provide the right incentives for it to happen quickly.

**A topic for conversation.** Jonathan Fuller, a well-known national activist, is a champion of the principle that politicians responsible for the consequences of climate change should be held accountable in law. You can follow his ideas on a number of websites, but those able to cope with the fine-print of the law may wish to follow his attempts to get the Metropolitan Police to take action against our own Government. So far, he has been unsuccessful. Two related items have been picked up by Greenpeace's "Stay Connected" link.

“In a **historic first for climate justice**, the United Nations General Assembly asked the International Court of Justice to issue an advisory opinion on countries’ duties to protect human rights from the climate crisis; and the legal consequences under international law for countries who breach those duties.”

“A group of law students now known as Pacific Islands Students Fighting Climate Change (PISFCC) **started a campaign to change international law so that polluting countries could be sued for not tackling climate change**. Climate vulnerable countries could soon be able to hold big polluting countries to account. Greenpeace worked closely with PISFCC, World's Youth for Climate Justice (WY4CJ) and other civil society organisations to garner the support of UN member countries around the world.”

Enough for now, but do come along to our **monthly meetings**, you do not have to be a member of FoE. We would benefit from your thinking and enthusiasm, and you might even want to take the initiative on a vital new – or old – project. Meetings are normally held on the second Tuesday of each month at 19:30hr in the Harriers Social Club, Hoo Road, Kidderminster, though check before as it sometimes changes if key people are unavailable on the usual date.

Roger Meade, Coordinator. [meaderoger7@gmail.com](mailto:meaderoger7@gmail.com)

### **Finally:**

Wild Justice uses the legal system to get a better deal for UK wildlife. The organisation challenges the government in the courts. Please consider supporting them - visit <https://wildjustice.org.uk/> where you can read about their latest success over seabed dredging.

### **Fungi Store Carbon**

Not mushroom to squeeze this in (sorry) but new research shows how much carbon can be stored by fungi in the soil. Yet another reason to care for our soil.

<https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/news/fungi-stores-third-carbon-fossil-fuel-emissions-and-could-be-essential-reaching-net-zero>