

## Wyre Forest Green Alliance Newsletter March 2024

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## **WFGA March Newsletter**

**Friday 1st March: "Insure Our Future"** Peaceful demonstration in Birmingham. Insurance is the Achilles heel of the fossil fuel industry. Without it, environmentally damaging oil, gas and coal projects simply cannot happen. As part of the "Insure our Future" global week of action Birmingham will see street performers and speeches, marches and music. Worcestershire's Planet Medics and Wyre Forest 's fledgling Climate Choir will be performing. Assemble in Victoria Square at noon and march to the offices of a number of fossil fuel supporting insurers. More information from [dandvwhiting@gmail.com](mailto:dandvwhiting@gmail.com)

**Saturday 2nd March Kidderminster Repair Café. 10.0 – 12.30 At the Youth House, Bromsgrove Street.** Bring your items for repair, sharpening etc. Enjoy a cuppa and cake. No charges, just donations please.

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 10.0 am WFGA/Tree Spirit work party for the tree nursery.** at Hawkbatch Farm. The work will be lifting and lining out (replanting) oaks and sweet chestnut that were sown a year ago. Then hopefully next year they will be big enough to plant out.

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March Green Drinks.** 8.0 pm at Bewdley Rowing Club. Transition Bewdley invite you all to join us for another lively, sociable and wide-ranging discussion. We will return to the theme of tipping points for this session. "Tipping Points or Levers? Once reached, we may not be able to do much about Tipping Points. However, there are social, economic, political and communal LEVERS which, when pulled, can result in profound changes in society - for good or evil. Can we identify some of these and see whether we might be able to pull some of them for good? We'll have some surprising examples to hand at the next Green Drinks session - after our host has 'pulled' a pint or two!"

**Tues 5<sup>th</sup> March, from 10.0 am Tree Planting.** We will be planting about 200 trees at Hawkbatch Farm, following on from planting this time last year, where we are extending the edge of the forest. The work will be planting and guarding against the deer. Extra hands are very welcome. For both sessions, please let Martin Blount [martinamess@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:martinamess@hotmail.co.uk) know if you can come. Drinks and cake provided.

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March Wyre Forest Friends of the Earth monthly meeting 19:00.** at St George's Social Club, Kidderminster at which we will be talking about what each of us can bring by way of personal experience about sustainable energy supply to our homes, such as solar panel, heat pumps, river heat and zero emission boilers. This is a 'prodromus' for a possible larger public event that fits into our overall energy conversation in Wyre Forest District – and should be of interest to our current MP with his space-mediated solar energy aspirations. All welcome.

**Friday 8th March. Environmental Question Time with Wyre Forest FOE supported by WFGA**  
**7.15 for 7.30 Trinity Methodist Church, Kidderminster.** This year's General Election is an opportunity to get some impetus behind a green agenda. With the mounting climate and ecological problems this has never been more important. The Friends of the Earth Question Time event is your opportunity to find out more about what's on offer from the main parties and make your vote matter.



**Vote for your future! - Make your vote count!**  
**Environmental Question Time**  
 Chaired by **Adrian Goldberg, Broadcaster and Journalist**  
*Which Party Offers The Best Hope of Dealing With The Climate and Environmental Crisis ?*  
**Join us on Friday 8th March 2024 to quiz the four main parties' representatives**  
 Trinity Methodist Church, Kidderminster, DY10 2JL  
**7:15pm for a prompt 7:30pm start**  
 Refreshments and chat from 9pm  
 Your questions in advance please to [wyreFOE@protonmail.com](mailto:wyreFOE@protonmail.com)  
 free entry, parking




Promoted for Wyre Forest Friends of the Earth by C. Crean of WMFoE, The Warehouse, Allison Street, B5 5TH  
[www.facebook.com/wfroe](https://www.facebook.com/wfroe)

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March 10.30 – 4.0 Launch of “railwalks”** a project to create long distance walks between rail stations to allow sustainable transport links between each leg. Some of the first published routes are between Worcester and Hagley. One of these walks will be featured during SustFest 2024 <https://www.facebook.com/railwalks.co.uk/>

**Wednesday March 13<sup>th</sup> at 2pm St Anne's Ecology Justice Group. Tree planting:**

We will meet at Oak Grove, the home of Richard and Yvonne Rundell in St John's Lane. This is part of the project with Severn Treescapes and local wildlife trusts. It aims to create significant new woodland habitat across several counties. Bring a spade and trowel if you can! Please email Robert Barbour at [barboursbewdley@btoopenworld.com](mailto:barboursbewdley@btoopenworld.com) if you can come so we have an idea of numbers attending. Also please confirm if you can bring a spade and trowel so we know how many to provide.

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March 4-5 pm Lets Waste Less at Holy Trinity Church, Trimpley**

[www.letswasteless.com](http://www.letswasteless.com)

**LET'S WASTE LESS**

Waste reduction drop-in by the Let's Waste Less volunteers at the Cake & Bake group, Holy Trinity Church, Trimpley, Thurs 14th March at 4-5pm



Learn about waste in Worcestershire & how to get recycling right!

Why we should all compost at home & how to get started



How to reuse & repair more and how to reduce your food waste



If you would like to know more about Let's Waste Less or being a volunteer, email coordinator Rob at [rwhitehouse@gardenorganic.org.uk](mailto:rwhitehouse@gardenorganic.org.uk)





**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March. Bewdley Repair Café. St Georges Hall, 10.0 – 2.0** (last entry 1.0 to give our wonderful volunteers a chance to fix your broken items).

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March. Butterfly Conservation Work-Party**

We meet 10am at Earnwood Copse car park on the Bewdley-Kinlet road just beyond Buttonoak village. contact [wmbutterflies@gmail.com](mailto:wmbutterflies@gmail.com). See also the Spotlight article below

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 3pm What did COP ever do for us? St. Anne's Climate Justice Group in St Anne's Church in Bewdley.** We were correctly sceptical that last year's COP summit in Dubai would ever achieve enough. But some important new agreements were reached. We will reflect on these and where this leaves our planet. We will also discuss what is happening in our local area with SustFest starting on April 27.

**Worcestershire Wildlife Trust volunteer opportunities at Dropping Well Farm Reserve**

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 10:30am until 3pm: – meet at the entrance barrier by Toll Cottage**

Working to maintain the banks of the original Worcester Road for rare invertebrate and flora. This will involve clearing bramble from the ancient banks to expose soils to provide nesting habitat for bees and space for flowering plants and grasses. Brambles on this soft soil can be pulled up or cut with loppers. We may identify a few shading trees that can felled.

**Volunteering will help you learn new skills and meet new people.**

**To find out more about our work parties and to register, please email:**

**[volunteer@worcestershirowildlifetrust.org](mailto:volunteer@worcestershirowildlifetrust.org)**

**Learn new skills**

Worcestershire Wildlife Trust

Volunteering will help you learn new skills and meet new people.

Come and join us at one of our upcoming work parties from 10:30am until 3pm:

- Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January
- Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February
- Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March
- Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April
- Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May

To find out more about our work parties, please use the link/QR code or email:  
[volunteer@worcestershirowildlifetrust.org](mailto:volunteer@worcestershirowildlifetrust.org)

SCAN ME

Read our blog  
[bit.ly/heathland-heroes-blog](https://bit.ly/heathland-heroes-blog)

Heritage Fund

Protecting wildlife where you live

**Tuesday Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March. World Water Day.** This year the theme is Water for Peace.

**<https://www.un.org/en/observances/water-day>**

**Key messages for World Water Day 2024**

- **Water can create peace or spark conflict.** When water is scarce or polluted, or when people struggle for access, tensions can rise. By cooperating on water, we can balance everyone's water needs and help stabilize the world.
- **Prosperity and peace rely on water.** As nations manage climate change, mass migration and political unrest, they must put water cooperation at the heart of their plans.

- **Water can lead us out of crisis.** We can foster harmony between communities and countries by uniting around the fair and sustainable use of water – from United Nations conventions at the international level, to actions at the local level.

**The Wyre Community Land Trust** will start its programme of monthly Ruskin Club courses for 2024 with a lovely workshop led by artist Olivia Mabey

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March – “Pigment to Paint” EITHER 10am to 1pm OR 2pm to 5pm to be held at Uncllys Farm £45 per person.**

Make your own watercolour paint using a selection of natural pigments from Okhra, Ecomuseum of Ocher (Roussillon, Provence). Explore the medium, make studies of the surroundings or create watercolour artwork of your choosing. You do not need painting experience to join, just creative curiosity. All materials will be provided, but feel free to bring your own brushes or sketchbooks etc. if you wish.

Please book online through the website [www.wyreclt.org.uk](http://www.wyreclt.org.uk) or contact [events@wyreclt.co.uk](mailto:events@wyreclt.co.uk)

**Some more volunteering Opportunities at Bishops Wood Centre.** Do you enjoy being outdoors? Bishops Wood Centre, Crossway Green near Stourport would like you to join our growing volunteers to create a community feeling. Somewhere you can come to meet others in a relaxed environment whilst really helping the charity to deliver outdoor education. Most of our tasks are outdoors but we aim to make sure there's something available for all abilities. If you would like to come along or want to find out some more information, please email [volunteers.bw@field-studies-council.org](mailto:volunteers.bw@field-studies-council.org) or call the centre on 01299 250513 and ask for Billie. Their Facebook page has the most up to date information.

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> and Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April 10:30 – 3pm Bishops Wood Centre Family days** in the Easter Holidays. Join our education team in discovering the outdoors this Easter. Follow the Easter trail, make some crafts and explore the grounds. Hunt for and find out about the wildlife in this area. To help plan and safely staff the sessions, please book your place in advance.

Children £5, Adults £5 and Babies under 1 are free.

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

#### **A message from Wyre Forest Friends of the Earth**

**Signed up to the Climate & Ecology Bill?** Not yet, but we never give up!

Some of us will remember Phil Oliver presenting Mark Garnier with a 500+ signature petition to support the CE Bill on 17<sup>th</sup> September last year. To date, he has not done so, even though there was a follow-up meeting with him and Zero Hour at his Westminster Office. Now, Zero Hour would like to get as many signatures in support of the CE Bill in advance of the General Election to persuade all the parliamentary candidates from the major Parties to commit in advance. They will transfer our standing 500+ signatures from last time and in particular would like groups, organisations and companies to sign 'corporately' so they can put logos on their approaches to candidates.

So, could you please follow the link: <https://action.zerohour.uk/>. It is self-explanatory, but there are other links that might also be of interest:





Campaigner Pack - <https://www.zerohour.uk/wp-content/uploads/Climate-Ecology-Bill-Campaigner-Pack-for-2024-General-Election.pdf>

15-minute presentation on the campaign –

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1LY-7GD78-Fh0JltvUudxyr4JoJy94b5J/view?usp=sharing>

Demo on how to use the open letter

- <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1McdqUEBrXCknd0Hqz7IgvMsn8hUxDZbS/view?usp=sharing>

## Good News?

**We need good news in these times of economic difficulties, conflicts and climate disruption.**

Please share any good news that you come across for future WFGA newsletters.

## Climate Income

Anyone attending the February Greener Living Fair in Kidderminster will have noticed a table promoting the idea of a Climate Income. This exciting scheme aimed at rapidly reducing our use of fossil fuels in a socially just way is being promoted internationally by the Citizens Climate Lobby. A talk by one of their experts has been organised for 3rd May as part of SustFest. If you can't wait until May, you can visit [CitizensClimateLobby.uk](https://CitizensClimateLobby.uk) for full information. Or contact Geo Meadows who is promoting this initiative, locally.



## Contribute to an Air Pollution Survey for Worcestershire County Council

who would love to hear your views and experiences on all things related to air quality and air pollution. Information from the survey will support the ongoing work to improve air quality around the county. It'll help us understand how we can all make Worcestershire a healthier place to be. The survey will only take about 10 minutes to complete and closes on 12 May 2024.

<https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/health-and-wellbeing/have-your-say>

**Good news for Electric Vehicle development.** New solid-state batteries will boost range from 350 miles to 450 – 500 miles. <https://www.reuters.com/technology/solid-state-ev-giants-chase-holy-grail-batteries-2024-01-16/>

**Another Electric Tipping Point.** Neil Kitching's latest blog - the falling cost of solar pv, wind and batteries will decimate the business models of fossil fuel electricity generation. Here is how this might play out. <http://www.carbonchoices.uk/index.php/blog/blog-55>

## Spotlight on Butterfly Conservation

West Midlands Butterfly Conservation is part of the national charity Butterfly Conservation and covers Birmingham & the Black Country, Herefordshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire and Worcestershire, which is a large area and means that we are very dependent on our local volunteers to lead activities and support us in our work. **Butterfly Conservation** is the largest insect conservation charity in Europe with nearly 40,000 members in the UK. Its aim is the conservation of butterflies, moths and their habitats. It runs conservation programmes on over 70 threatened species of butterfly and moth and manages over 30 nature reserves. For further information

[www.butterfly-conservation.org](http://www.butterfly-conservation.org) Much work is delivered through the charity's regional branches and West Midlands Butterfly Conservation works to raise awareness of the region's butterflies and moths and undertakes a programme of conservation work at a range of sites (see our website for full details

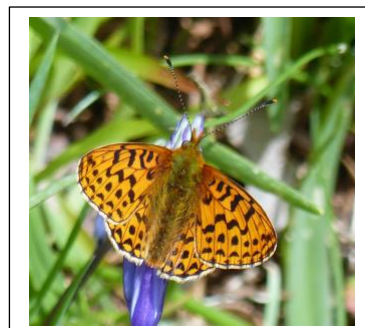
[www.westmidlandsbutterflyconservation.wordpress.com](http://www.westmidlandsbutterflyconservation.wordpress.com)). We manage five nature reserves in the region including three in Worcestershire, which we manage in partnership with the Wildlife Trust. Within Wyre Forest district, we have developed a number of joint projects to highlight the importance of pollinators of which butterflies and moths play an important role, including the development of a pollinator garden in Brinton's Park, an information board at Burlish Meadows and the Pollinator Patch initiative with the District Council, the Wyre Forest Green Alliance and Friends of the Earth.



The Wyre Forest itself is in the top five woodland sites nationally for its butterflies and moths and is an important focus for our work. It is particularly significant for its Fritillary butterflies, a fast-declining group which have disappeared from much of Britain but still occur in the Wyre. We work closely with both Forestry England and Natural England to ensure that important sites within the Forest are effectively conserved and organise **volunteer work parties** over the winter to support this. One remaining date this winter: 19<sup>th</sup> March. We meet 10am at Earnwood Copse car park on the Bewdley-Kinlet road just beyond Buttonoak village.



In the summer months, we organise public events like butterfly walks and moth mornings to showcase the importance of the Wyre. We also recruit volunteers to fulfil the role of local butterfly champions to help us to survey and monitor butterflies at key locations. Butterflies and moths along with much of our wildlife are declining nationally but we can point to a number of species where we have successfully bucked national trends and populations of our most threatened species have significantly increased but there is more still to be done.



Butterfly Conservation launched its new national strategy in 2022 which aims:

- To halve the number of threatened species of butterflies and moths
- To improve the condition of 100 of the most important landscapes for species including the Wyre and

- To transform 100,000 wild spaces in the UK for people, butterflies and moths

These are ambitious targets but if we are to turn round the fortunes of our butterflies and moths, we will need to redouble our efforts. Exciting projects planned for 2023 include a feasibility study into the reintroduction of the Kentish Glory moth into the Wyre Forest which was its last English stronghold before becoming extinct 50 years ago. You can support our work by becoming a volunteer and perhaps consider joining Butterfly Conservation. We are always keen to recruit new volunteers that can support our work locally and help us to develop new areas of involvement – do get in touch. All national members living within the region automatically become members of West Midlands Butterfly Conservation at no additional charge. Members receive our regional magazine 'The Comma', which is produced three times a year and is packed full of articles and news of our work. For more information contact [wmbutterflies@gmail.com](mailto:wmbutterflies@gmail.com)