



WFGA NEWSLETTER

November 2022

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

Producing this newsletter each month takes a very significant amount of time. To reduce this workload, the WFGA Newsletter will in future be published every other month. For the other months we will do a simple mailout of forthcoming events. So the next full newsletter will be in January. If you have an event that you would like publicising please send details by:

28th November for December mailout

28th December for January newsletter.

The pursuit of money drives the Climate Crisis.

We need to spend money to resolve it.

Thanks to the UK's northerly latitude it is possible - if we act now - to ride out the worst of the Climate Crisis. But ensuring that the UK remains habitable for future generations will take an enormous amount of money. Generally speaking, we know what needs to be done, but sadly don't have the political will or the money to make it happen. But do we really not have the money?

In the UK, according to the government's own **Wealth Tax Commission**, a 1% tax on UK households with more than half a million pounds would raise some £50bn a year. As the wealthy are disproportionately responsible for climate pollution it would seem right that they are taxed accordingly. And why stop at 1%? Some of us will remember that in the post-war years we had a supertax that in 1969 went as high as an incredible 85%.

And considering the global situation, there is certainly no shortage of wealth in the world (about \$500tn actually!). If only governments had the will and the courage to tap into it, even the global climate crisis could be tackled.

For some amazing statistics on wealth [read this jaw-dropping report](#).

MEMBER ORGANISATION NEWS

*Your Event
could be
HERE !*

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

Last date for copy for the December newsletter is 24th November

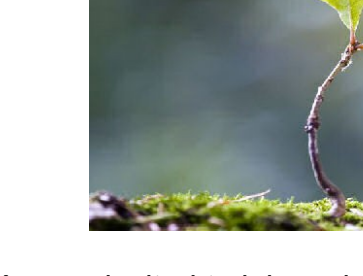
St Anne's Church, Bewdley Traidcraft Fair – Sat 5th Nov



Ethical, Sustainable, Fair Trade
Gifts, Homeware, Groceries, Christmas Cards and Goodies
From 10am-4pm
Lunches & Refreshments available

More info from Elaine Barbour, 01299 400617
barboursbewdley@btopenworld.com

Transition Kidderminster Repair Café - Sat 5th November



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 (any donations welcome)

At Youth House, Bromsgrove Street, Kidderminster. DY10 1PF. From 10am. Last check-in 1 pm.

Community Tree Planting - 9th and 19th November

Worcestershire Wildlife Trust is organising tree planting events on its recently acquired Dropping Well Farm. Planting trees will form hedgerows to mark the boundaries between parcels of land and create some nice hedgerow habitat at the same time!



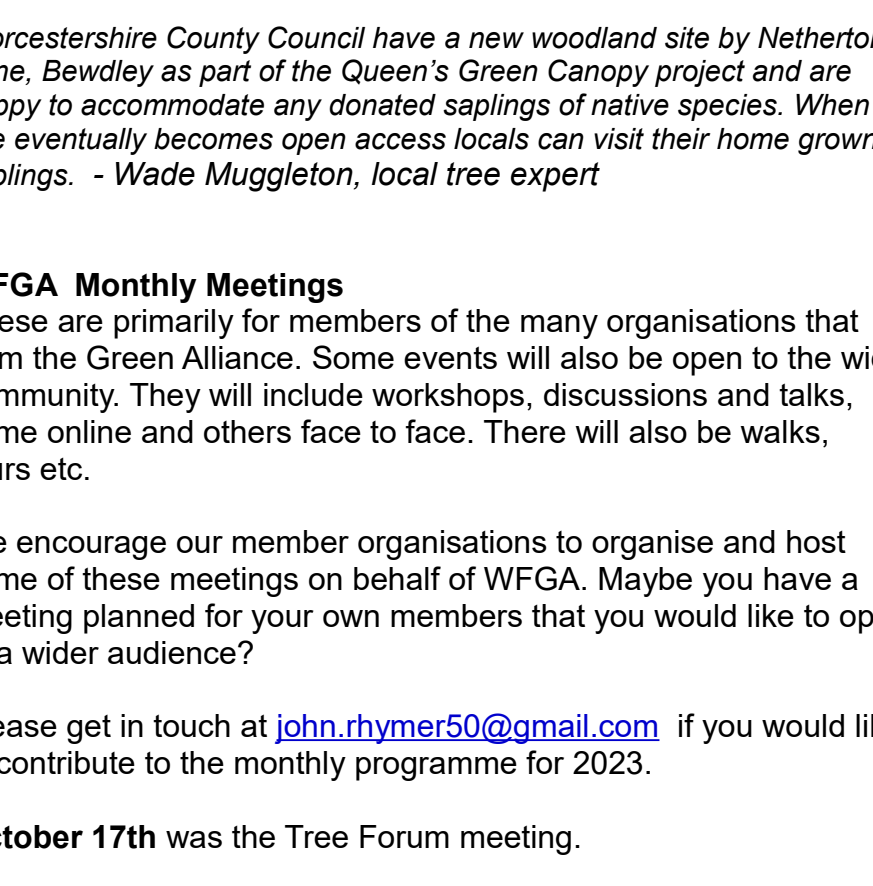
Both days will be 10am – 2pm and you will need to bring lunch and be dressed in suitable outdoor clothing (sturdy footwear, long sleeved clothing and waterproofs). Some light refreshments and snacks will be provided.

Please book your free place via Eventbrite (where you will also find full details of where to meet).

Wednesday 9th November [here](#)

Saturday 19th November [here](#)

Climate Justice Coalition - 12th Nov - COP27 Demo



Thousands of people will be on the streets to demand Climate Justice - solidarity with the Global Day of Action called by Egyptian groups at COP27. Can you join them? More [here](#).

LONDON - Shell Building 12:00

EDINBURGH - St Andrew Sq 12:00

NEWCASTLE - Grey's Monument 12:00

BIRMINGHAM - Victoria Sq

WFGA Tree Forum Tree Nursery - 12th & 15th November



You are invited to join us in creating a tree nursery at Hawkbatch Farm, Bewdley (DY12 3AH). The nursery will be used to grow-on tree seedlings grown by local volunteers, and then planted in local sites to create woodlands for wildlife and to combat climate change.

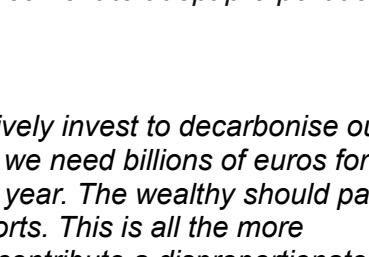
Saturday 12th November 10am

Tuesday 15th November 10am

Contact john.rhymer50@gmail.com for directions and to let us know that you are coming.

Transition Bewdley Repair Café - Sat 19th November

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.



No need to book items other than bikes and furniture (for these, please email John Rhymer at john.rhymer50@gmail.com)

WFGA Event - Tues 29th November



Christmas Fair plus a talk/discussion on how to have a greener and more sustainable Christmas.

If you would like the opportunity to promote your organisation, (including the sale of appropriate items) and its messages regarding sustainability please book your space by contacting Ronnie Lee at ronaldanthonylee@gmail.com.

Tables provided, set-up from 6.30 pm, need to vacate hall by 9pm.

WFGA NEWS

WFGA Tree Planting Initiative

Looking around, it's a great year for tree seed, what we call a mast year. Acorns appear to be around in their millions. It is reckoned about one year in five is a mega mast year, and last year there were virtually no acorns at all, so perhaps we were due a bumper crop. Tree planting is a topical subject and high on the political agenda. Saplings have been in short supply and costs have rocketed, however all those seeds dropping this autumn are potentially free trees.

So why not grow your own trees? It's cheap, easy and a life affirming thing to do. Whatever seed you choose, all you need is some compost and a container (you can use anything from milk cartons to cut-off plastic bottles) and most seeds will germinate freely, after all that's what seeds do... grow. The main hazard is mice and squirrels which will dig up and eat your seeds so a bit of chicken wire or a similar covering to create a rodent-free spot is advisable. Follow [this link](#) to an article by John Rhymer explaining this in more detail.

Worcestershire County Council have a new woodland site by Netherton Lane, Bewdley as part of the Queen's Green Canopy project and are happy to accommodate any donated saplings of native species. When the site eventually becomes open access locals can visit their home grown saplings. - Wade Muggleton, local tree expert

WFGA Monthly Meetings

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, discussions and talks, some online and others face to face. There will also be walks, tours etc.

We encourage our member organisations to organise and host some of these meetings on behalf of 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.rhymer50@gmail.com if you would like to contribute to the monthly programme for 2023.

October 17th was the Tree Forum meeting.

November 29th is the Greener Christmas Fair (see above).

December 6th is a visit (1.30 pm) to Worcestershire's Recycling Centre, the fascinating "Enviro-sort facility" near Norton just outside Worcester. Transition Bewdley is organising this on behalf of the WFGA, book your place [here](#) on Eventbrite.

WFGA SustFest 2023

Please put this in your diary for next year: 29th April - 14th May.

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 income. Can you help?

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

ENERGY MATTERS

This year's hot Christmas present (no pun intended)



With everyone desperate to reduce their energy use by keeping their heating off for as long as possible or turning the temperature down, retailers have seen an opportunity and stores are packed full of warm clothing and gadgets. The hottest trend is thermal fashion, a category that includes hooded blankets, heated ponchos and microwaveable slippers. So save energy by heating yourself rather than your house!

Or go back in time and use the tried and tested hot water bottle! A full 'charge' will cost you around 8p for the hot water (electric kettle).

CLIMATE CRISIS

A manifesto to deal with the Climate Crisis?

This bold agenda, put forward by nine forward thinking experts and activists, rather than tinkering around the edges offers a set of radical ideas. But what chance is there of either of the major parties adopting them?

for example:

"...what would make all kinds of other things possible is reining in the power of transnational capital over our governments. It is the power to financially reward (and punish) lawmakers, in various ways, that is the single biggest barrier to progress. We need to ban corporate campaign donations, direct and indirect, and we need to stop the revolving door between corporate lobbyists and lawmakers from spinning so a cushy job in the sector you are regulating isn't an enticement to adopt pro-pollution policies." - Naomi Klein, author

or:

"To combat climate change we must massively invest to decarbonise our transport, energy and production systems: we need billions of euros for that, representing 2% of global GDP every year. The wealthy should pay their fair share of taxes to finance such efforts. This is all the more legitimate when we know that the wealthy contribute a disproportionate share to climate change. At the global level, 10% of the population contributes to about half of all emissions and there are also large pollution inequalities within each country." - Thomas Piketty and Lucas Chancel, economists

It's all down to politics. Currently our politicians, through neglect and self interest, are slowly killing the planet.

Read the full bold agenda [here](#).

Mystery of the Ghost Flights

More than 5,000 completely empty passenger flights have flown to or from UK airports since 2019, and a further 35,000 flights have operated almost empty.



The airline companies refuse to explain why these 'ghost flights' are happening but with air travel being a huge contributor to global warming it is amazing that they are allowed to do this. Furthermore it costs the airlines heavily in fuel bills. Perhaps [you](#) can solve the mystery - read the report [here](#).

GOOD READS OF THE MONTH

Drawn from her spectacularly funny Guardian columns, **What Just Happened?!** is a welcome blast of humour and sanity in a world where reality has become stranger than fiction. If the real world is getting you down then this could be your antidote!

	<i>In What Just Happened?! Marina Hyde slashes her way through the hellscapes of post-referendum politics, where the chaos never stops. Clamber aboard as we relive every inspirational moment of magic, from David Cameron to Theresa May to Boris Johnson. Marvel at the sights, from Trumpian WTF-ery to celebrity twattery. And boggle at the cast of characters: Hollywood sex offenders, populists, sporting heroes (and villains), dastardly dukes, media barons, movie stars, reality TV monsters, billionaires, police officers, various princes and princesses, wicked advisers, philanthropists, fauxxanthropists, telly chefs, and (naturally) Gwyneth Paltrow. It's the full state banquet of crazy – and you're most cordially invited.</i>
<small>"Thank f*** for Marina Hyde!" Phoebe Waller-Bridge</small>	<i>Review by faber.co.uk</i>

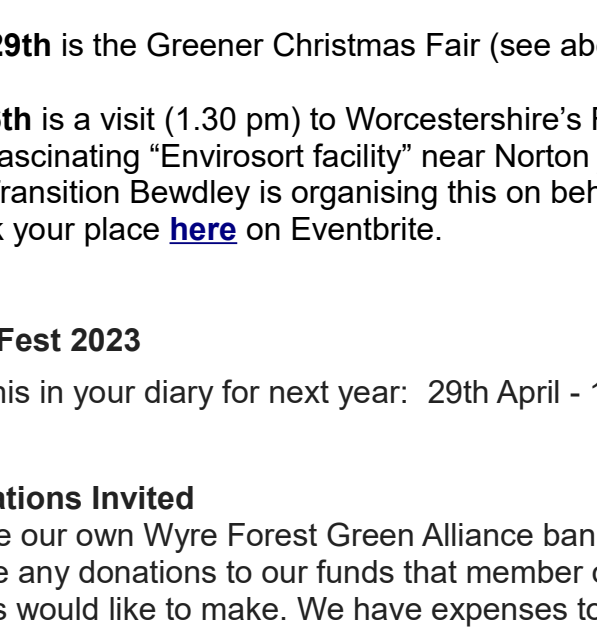
What Is Biodiversity?

We all know that biodiversity is important to the well-being of our planet, for the physical and mental well-being of humans, and that it encompasses what we vaguely refer to as nature. WFGA member Roger Meade reflects on the ways in which biodiversity is referred to and what it really is.

Read his highly informative contribution [here](#).

GOOD NEWS OF THE MONTH

A new 'Green Alliance' to defend nature



It really has come to something when fairly staid organisations like the RSPB, National Trust, Wildlife and Countryside Link, and the Wildlife Trusts team up to take on the government over protecting the environment. Read [here](#) about what the government plans to do and you'll understand why these organisations are making a bold stand on behalf of their members.

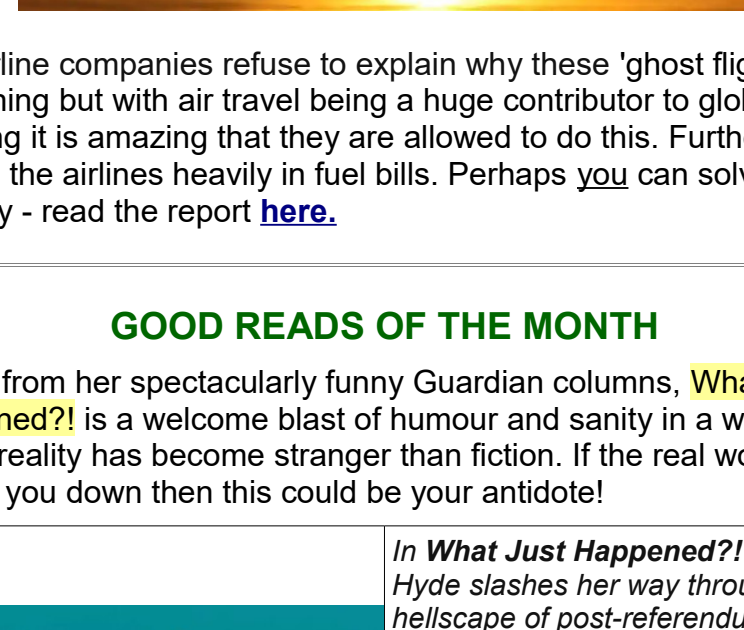
Can Seaweed help us go Carbon Negative?



Seagrown, the UK's biggest seaweed farm, cultivate three fast-growing species of kelp that can be used to make everything from a biodegradable alternative to plastic bottles to an umami-rich condiment which is already stocked in Selfridges. They also produce eco-friendly fertiliser and cattle feed.

Moreover, seaweed is a crop that scientists believe can help reverse the climate crisis. A 2019 study found it 20 times more effective than plants at carbon sequestration - taking CO2 from the atmosphere and "locking" it up in solid or liquid form. Seaweed does this effortlessly by exporting a large portion of its biomass out into the deep sea. More [here](#).

Return of the Predators



Wolves, brown bears and white-tailed eagles are among the top predators making a comeback across Europe, according to a major report that looks at how some wildlife is rebounding. Seen as essential components for a balanced eco-system, these top predators are back in business. However we can expect a backlash as the numbers increase and they are seen as a threat to the No 1 predator, humans. Read the report [here](#).

ECO RELATED SITES

For renewable energy generation items try these three highly recommended online supermarkets:

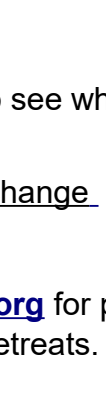
- Low Energy Supermarket [here](#)
- Eco Supermarket [here](#)
- ITS Technologies [here](#)
- Follow [this link](#) below to see where our energy is coming from.
- [Wyre Forest Waste Exchange](#)
- [Wyre Forest Freegle](#)
- Check out [lowimpact.org](#) for practical advice on all things eco, from solar to eco retreats.

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.



Produced by Geo Meadows for the
Wyre Forest Green Alliance

wfgall@protonmail.com

www.wfgall.org.uk