

WFGA November 2023 newsletter

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November Newsletter

Sat,28th Oct and Wed 1st November. 10.30 am Tree Nursery Working Party at Hawkbatch Farm DY123AH.

We will be making some new beds, filling with compost, sowing seeds and lifting trees to take over to Hobro Lodge. Hot drinks and biscuits provided.

Monday 30th October and Tuesday 31st October. Halloween Themed events at Bishops Wood Centre 12:00 - 16:00 Times: 12-4pm. £8 per child, Adults Free. Please join us for some half term fun this October! We have a bumper day filled with a Mammals Theme. See what lurks in the shadows, get crafty with leaves, follow our Scarecrow Trail, Pond dipping and Mini beast hunting! Plus, our Halloween Alley for those in the spirit. We can’t wait to welcome you.

For details and to book go to <https://www.field-studies-council.org/courses-and-experiences/static-courses/eco-adventures-at-bishops-wood/>
Information on our Facebook page and a link to book there as well.

1st November 2023 6:30pm - 9pm Climate Change Solutions are excited to announce our upcoming event **“West Midlands Bright Solar Future”** to be held in The Birmingham & Midland Institute, 9 Margaret Street, Birmingham B3 3BS

West Midlands Bright Solar Future

Making 2030 Climate Emergency - Solutions

Wednesday 1st November
6.30pm refreshments 7.15 - 9.00pm
at the
Birmingham & Midland Institute
9 Margaret Street,
Birmingham B3 3BS

Register free Eventbrite:
[www.climate-change-solutions.co.uk/event/Midlands Bright Solar Future/](http://www.climate-change-solutions.co.uk/event/Midlands-Bright-Solar-Future/)

This partnership project seeks to accelerate understanding and engagement for achieving the UK aim of a 500% increase in solar power by 2035, generating from 15 to 70GW or more. It's the quickest and best local means of producing vast amounts of clean, green and cheaper power, creating jobs, business and innovation, aiding the circular economy. Solar mapping identifies the potential for 12 million panels in the region on large south-facing and flat roofs as well as carparks, particularly with commercial and public sector building. Large clusters of buildings offer greater cost benefit integrating shared storage, smart systems, EV points, energy efficiency and other renewable sources such as wind, heat and cooling pumps, hydro and hydrogen. Typical are local councils, business, retail or industrial parks, education campuses, hospitals, housing associations etc. It enables shared green energy generation and consumption with minimal reliance on the National Grid, known as decentralised or community energy systems. Complementing this is consideration for West Midlands Solar Procurement Partnership plan that could offer economy of scale, stimulating UK manufacturing capacity and increase skilled workforce at every level of the supply chain.
Note: The Birmingham & Midland Institute was founded in 1854 by Act of Parliament "for the Diffusion and Advancement of Science, Literature and Art amongst all Classes of Persons resident in Birmingham and the Midland Counties".




Chair - Tony McNally
Managing Director Climate Change Solutions Ltd



Serena Bacuzzi
Regional Principal Net Zero Projects Officer Midlands Net Zero Hub



Mark Wakeford
Chair Evo Energy, Vice Chair Construction Excellence-Midlands, Member of the Government's Solar Task Force



John Martin
Transformation Lead City Energy Transformation E.ON UK

A short break



Chair - Rajdeep Kandola
Director External Affairs Greater Birmingham Chambers of Commerce



Daniella Parker
Project Manager Solar for Schools & Schools Ambassador



Luke Strickland
Net Zero Advisory Lead Buildings & Cities Mott MacDonald



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For more information, [please click here](#).

To reserve your place at this unmissable event, [please click here](#)

Thursday 2 November 3pm St Anne's Church, Bewdley. “Houston, we have a problem...” Record heat, fires and floods. Is it the apocalypse, or just a dress rehearsal? A review of some recent events and a look ahead to COP28, due to be held in Dubai from 30 November to 12 December. We'll try to remain positive, but COP28 is going to take some getting used to...!

Saturday 4th November. Wyre Forest Green Alliance AGM. 2.0 – 4.0 pm St. Georges Hall, Bewdley

Do please join us for a short AGM to celebrate what WFGA has achieved in the two years since we formed, and to elect the new steering group. This will be followed by an opportunity to share your ideas of how we can make our district greener, happier and healthier. Please let John Rhymer (WFGA Coordinator) know if you are coming so we can ensure that we provide enough cake!

Agenda

2.0 Report from Wyre Forest Green Alliance Steering group

2.05 Treasurer's report

2.10 Election of new steering group

2.20 Refreshments

2.40 Key speaker- Marjory Bisset (joint Leader Worcester City Council) - "Green ambitions for Worcester City"

2.50 Questions

3.0 Guided visioning

3.10 Small group discussion

3.20 Feedback

3.30 The way forward. What can we do to bring about a greener future as individual organisations and as an alliance?

4.0 finish

Monday 6th November. 8.0 pm Green Drinks at Bewdley Rowing Club.

"Positive futures for our towns". Transition Bewdley invite you to join us to consider how we would like our communities to be in the future and what we need to do to make that better future happen. A wide-ranging discussion over a drink or two. Dare to dream!

Wednesday 8th November 2.0 pm Wyre Forest Cycle Forum

Kidderminster Room. Wyre Forest District Council Offices.

Carbon Footprint per passenger per kilometre: Car 271g; Conventional bike 21g; Electric Bike 14g. It really does make a difference.

Join us? Contact Clive Prince: clive.prince@btinternet.com

Saturday 11th November 1000-1200 "An introduction to healthy hedge management in your local greenspace."

Healthy hedges for community spaces

Join our Natural Networks project officer Becca Bratt for this great introduction to hedges and hedgerow management. The workshop will include how to plant hedgerow whips, we'll take a short walk to see examples of laid hedges and will discuss how and when to cut back hedgerows to maintain them for wildlife.

There will also be plenty of opportunities to chat to other attendees from local communities and community groups about how they're helping wildlife in their neighbourhoods. Tea, coffee and cake will be provided.

The workshop is the first in a series of practical sessions to help local community groups to help wildlife in their area and to come together to chat about the wonderful work they are doing or planning.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/workshop-healthy-hedges-for-community-spaces->

tickets-711094361377?utm-campaign=social&utm-content=attendeeshare&utm-medium=discovery&utm-term=listing&utm-source=cp&aff=ebdsshcopyurl

Wednesday 15th November 7pm - 8.30pm Christmas Greener Living Fair at St Ambrose's Parish Centre, Leswell Street, Kidderminster DY10 1RP. If your organisation or small business promotes sustainability/care for the environment and would like a stall (free of charge), please contact Kate Spohrer katespohrer@hotmail.com Organised by Wyre Forest Green Alliance.



Friday 17th November 6:45pm Sustfest Fundraising Supper. At St Michael and All Angels Church, Church Drive, Stourport, DY13 9DD. To raise funds to run SustFest 2024. Tickets £15 From sustfestwyreforest@gmail.com . Raffle (please bring cash) and entertainment. Why not book a table for you and a group of friends? Delicious 2 course meal with choices including plant-based alternatives. Bring your own drinks. If you would like to donate a raffle prize please contact JANICE on j_c_bell@talk21.com

Monday 27th November 2023 & Monday 29th April 2024, 9am - 2pm.
An introduction to Birds of the Wyre Forest

As part of our new project, "Going Wild in the Wyre" funded by The National Lottery Community Fund to help survey the wildlife of the Wyre Forest. A two-part course exploring the fascinating world of birds in the Wyre Forest. During this course, we will look at all aspects of the species that occur regularly in the forest, covering topics such as identification, distribution, survey methods, ecology and how on-site management benefits or impacts them. Course dates have been specifically tailored to coincide with peaks in seasonal activity with winter and spring dates resulting in a wide coverage of the forests specialty species. Classroom based learning will be supplemented with 'in the field' experience, giving participants the best possible grounding to help identification of birds in the forest.

Course tutor - Craig Reed: The current county bird recorder for Worcestershire, Craig is a lifelong birder with a keen interest in bird identification and surveying, particularly so within the Wyre Forest where he has studied the birdlife in both a long-term study of its breeding species, but also during his Masters degree thesis. Please note this course requires booking, please email Kate@wyreclt.org.uk to book and for more information.

Cop28 to Climate Cop-Out!

It is nearly two years since the COP26 climate talks in Glasgow caught the imagination of the media in the UK, bringing hope that at last world leaders would heed the science and take the necessary steps to "keep 1.5 alive".

Instead, we have seen a steady rowing back from the few meaningful promises made at those talks. And the COP28 talks in Dubai are set to be dominated by the very people responsible for maintaining our reliance on damaging fossil fuels.

You will not need reminding of what we in the UK have already experienced, from record breaking temperatures to wild fires and flooding.

As members of Wyre Forest Green Alliance, what can we do to highlight the continued attacks on the natural world and help increase the pressure to act now to create a greener, healthier and more sustainable world?
Please get involved.

The COP28 talks commence on 30th November and end on 12th December. Clearly, they stand to be overshadowed by other events. We cannot afford to allow that to happen.

Antonio Guterres, Secretary General of the United Nations, has said "delay means death". The situation requires action by all of us.

WFGA Organisations are organising a number of events to draw attention to the talks, to keep them in the public domain, to highlight their importance; but also, to call out the danger of delay in transitioning away from our current destructive path.

This timely [UN University Report: Interconnected Disaster Risks Report 2023](#) Provides a different perspective and some interesting reading. Your organisation might choose to use it at an event as a basis for discussion

Here is advance notice of just some of the events already organised.

Saturday 2nd December 1.0 – 2.0 pm Wyre Forest XR singing alternative **green Christmas carols** at the Bewdley Lights switch on celebrations.

5th December. 7.15 pm Transition Bewdley are showing the film "**Once you Know**" followed by a facilitated discussion at St Georges Hall Bewdley.

Saturday 9th December. 5.0 pm St Anne's Church bells will ring out for the climate. Meet by the Stanley Baldwin statue in Load Street, Bewdley at 4.0 pm if you want to join with others to support this event.

Saturday 9th December St Georges Hall, Bewdley. Doors open 7.30pm "Rebel and the Banned" have arranged an evening with 3 bands entitled "**Cop Out Christmas**". Details <https://www.copout productions/when.html>

Spotlight on WFGA Organisation Transition Bewdley

Transition Bewdley is a founder member of Wyre Forest Green Alliance

Transition Bewdley - What's in it for you?

Did you know Bewdley has been a Transition Town for over 12 years? Possibly not? You may have heard mention of Transition Bewdley or it may have totally passed you by. Now might be a good time to find out more.

Transition is a movement of communities coming together to reimagine and rebuild our world and help support the transition to a carbon-free economy.

Transition Bewdley have been working on a number of initiatives over the years with the intention of making our community more resilient in the face of the effects of Climate and Ecological Change

Probably the most well-known project has been the establishment of the popular **Repair Cafe** held in St Georges Hall on the third Saturday of every month.

Other initiatives include the monthly **Green Drinks** currently held at Bewdley Rowing Club on the first Monday of the month and the establishment of **Plastic Free Bewdley** which is in the process of revival following a pause because of Covid.

In conjunction with Wyre Forest Friends of the Earth, we have established a group - **CARP (Communities Against River Pollution)** - to monitor the quality of the water of our local rivers - Severn, Stour and Dowles Brook.

*Continued....*A new initiative being planned to set up a **Library of Things**. This will be a collection of "things" that you may need to use on an irregular basis but don't need to own. For example, you may want to pressure wash your drive once a year but don't want to buy a machine to sit in your shed for the rest of the year. **What do you think of this as an asset to the town? Would you use it? What sort of things would you like to see in such a Library? Look out for details of a meeting to find out further information.**

All of these things involve our time to develop. We have lots of ideas that would make a positive impact but we need help. People do Transition for all sorts of reasons:

- to get to know their neighbours;
- to feel like they are making a difference in the world;
- because the world's huge challenges (climate change, social inequality, economic decline and so on) feel more manageable if addressed at the local scale (as one person put it, "Transition changed my relationship to the problems");
- to catalyse all manner of new projects, enterprises and investment opportunities;

- to learn new skills;
- to feel like they are creating a new story for their place;
- to feel connected to other people and to something historic and exciting happening around them;
- because they feel it is “the right thing to do”.

If this interests you, why not get in touch and see if you can be involved and help us move things along? Email Janice Bell on j_c_bell@talk21.com