



## WFGA NEWSLETTER

October 2022

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

MAC users: to open links in new window press **Shift + Left Click**

By the time you read this edition the latest energy cap will be in force. So energy prices will not be as high as predicted a month ago but there's still a big hike. Not surprisingly this issue of the newsletter focuses on the energy crisis and how to reduce costs - by the fairly obvious expedient of reducing usage!

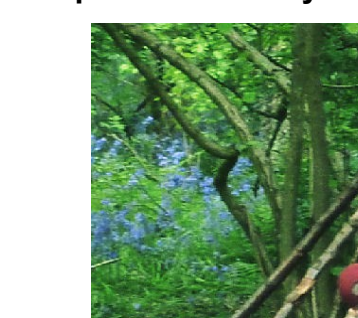
## MEMBER ORGANISATION NEWS

*Your Event  
could be  
HERE !*

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

Last date for copy for the November newsletter is **25<sup>th</sup> October**

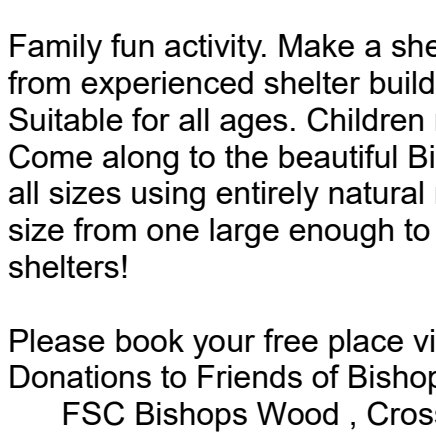
### Transition Kidderminster - Repair Café Sat 1<sup>st</sup> October



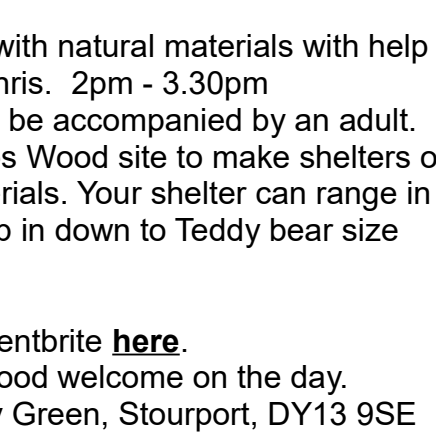
This popular free local service is here to carry out all manner of repairs, sewing and tool sharpening.

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

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

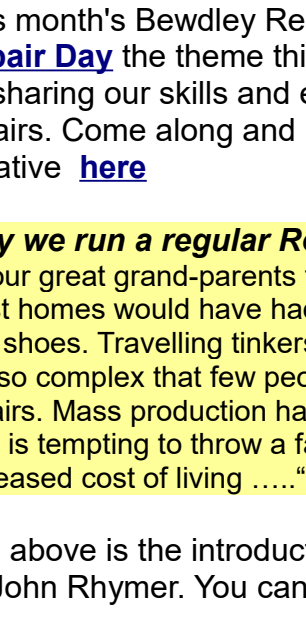


another satisfied customer



the regular Freebie table

### Bewdley Quakers – Coffee Morning Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October



## Coffee Morning

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October  
10am-12pm

**Everyone Welcome !**

**Bewdley Quaker Meeting House - Lower Park - DY12 2DP**

**Free coffee/tea/biscuits and the opportunity to chat in our warm & friendly Meeting House**

**Please note that parking is very limited**

[www.bewdleyquakers.org.uk/events](http://www.bewdleyquakers.org.uk/events)

### Bishops Wood Family Shelter Building – Sat 15<sup>th</sup> October



Family fun activity. Make a shelter with natural materials with help from experienced shelter builder Chris. 2pm - 3.30pm

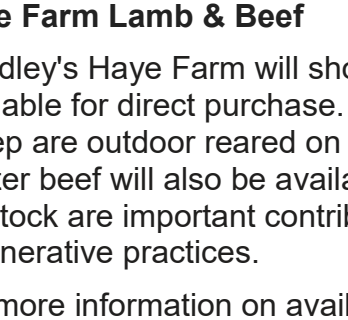
Suitable for all ages. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Come along to the beautiful Bishops Wood site to make shelters of all sizes using entirely natural materials. Your shelter can range in size from one large enough to sleep in down to Teddy bear size shelters!

Please book your free place via Eventbrite [here](#).

Donations to Friends of Bishops Wood welcome on the day.

FSC Bishops Wood , Crossway Green, Stourport, DY13 9SE

### Transition Bewdley Repair Café - Sat 15<sup>th</sup> October



Bewdley Repair Café is at its usual St George's Hall venue. Bring your items for repair or sharpening from 10am. Last check-in 1.0 pm.

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

This month's the Bewdley Repair Café will be part of [International Repair Day](#) the theme this year being [Repair Everywhere](#). So we'll be sharing our skills and encouraging people to try making their own repairs. Come along and learn! Read more about this exciting initiative [here](#)

### Why we run a regular Repair Café

"In our great grand-parents time carrying out our own repairs was normal. Most homes would have had a shoe last for nailing new soles on boots and shoes. Travelling tinkers would repair pots and pans. Now, appliances are so complex that few people have the confidence to attempt their own repairs. Mass production has made products cheaper but harder to repair so it is tempting to throw a faulty item away and buy a new one. With the increased cost of living ....."

The above is the introduction to a Transition Bewdley article written by John Rhymer. You can read the full article [here](#).

### Help Make Wyre Forest Pesticide Free – Sat 15<sup>th</sup> October

## Save the Bee go Pesticide free!

**With wildlife & biodiversity in steep decline we urgently need your support**

Other areas across the UK are going pesticide free with a modern, viable & cost effective alternatives to Glyphosate & other harmful chemicals

Come and find out how we can make a

## Pesticide Free Wyre Forest

**JOIN US ON SATURDAY**

**OCTOBER 15<sup>th</sup> 3pm**

Kidderminster Harriers Social & Supporters Club, Stadium Close, Hoo Rd., Kidderminster, DY10 1NB

Special guest speaker: Emma Pavans de Ceccatty (PAN, UK)

**For more info phone: 07751 187567**  
Email: [pesticidefreewyreforest@gmail.com](mailto:pesticidefreewyreforest@gmail.com)

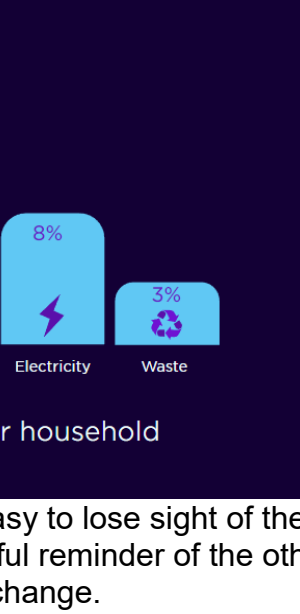
Hosted by: Pesticide Free Wyre Forest & Wyre Forest Green Party

As many people as possible are urged to attend this event which will include the launch of a campaign to lobby WFDC councillors with the aim of achieving a Pesticide Free Wyre Forest. For background information visit the Pesticide Action Network site [here](#).

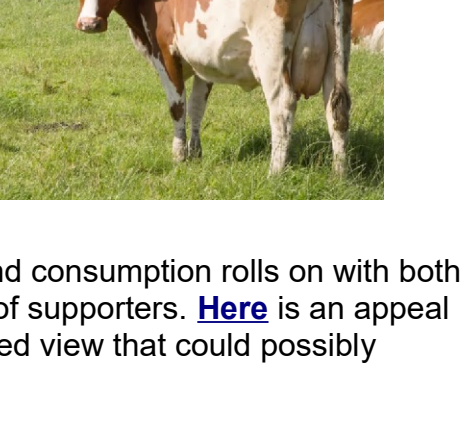
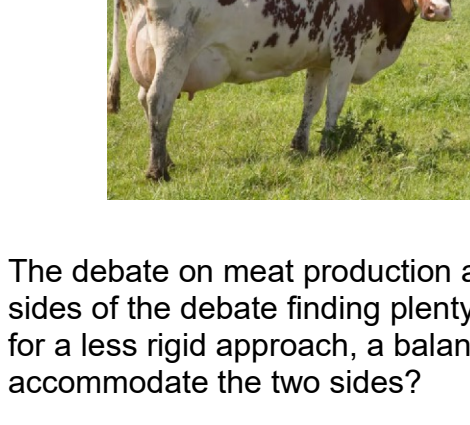
### Apple Day – Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> October

Preliminary notice of this event organised by Haye Farm. Full details of venue, events, entertainment etc. will be posted shortly [here](#) and on social media.

Or phone Stuart on 07732 489195 for latest update.



### Bewdley Quakers – Meeting House for hire



Visit their [web page](#) for full details of rooms, rates and facilities. If you are looking for a venue for a meeting or an event check out the options. Hire a room (from £3/hr) or hire the whole building with gardens. Ring **01299 405214** for availability/booking.

### Haye Farm Lamb & Beef

Bewdley's Haye Farm will shortly have a small amount of lamb meat available for direct purchase. Their small flock of Wiltshire horn sheep are outdoor reared on a 100% pasture diet. Outdoor reared Dexter beef will also be available from December. The grazing livestock are important contributors to the farm's overall regenerative practices.

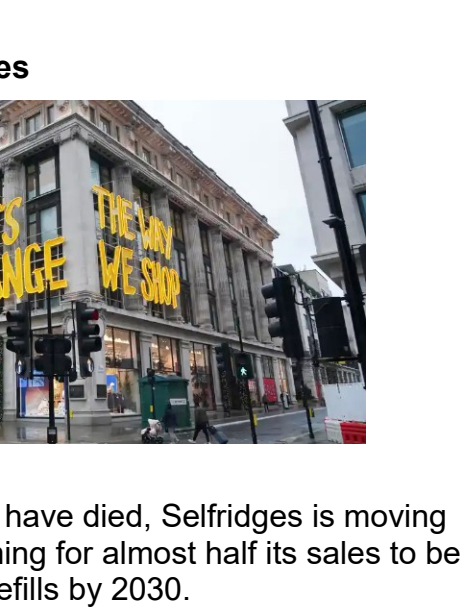
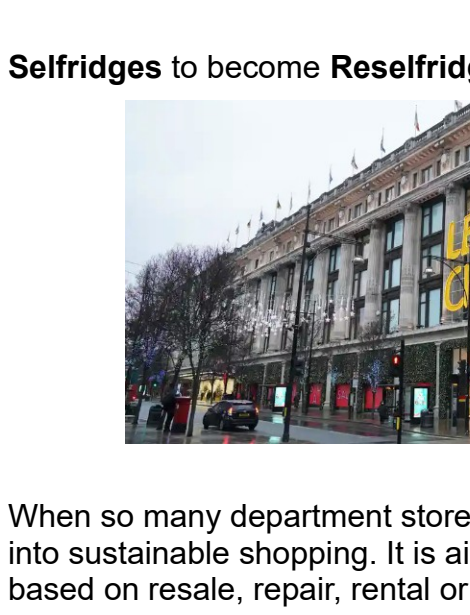
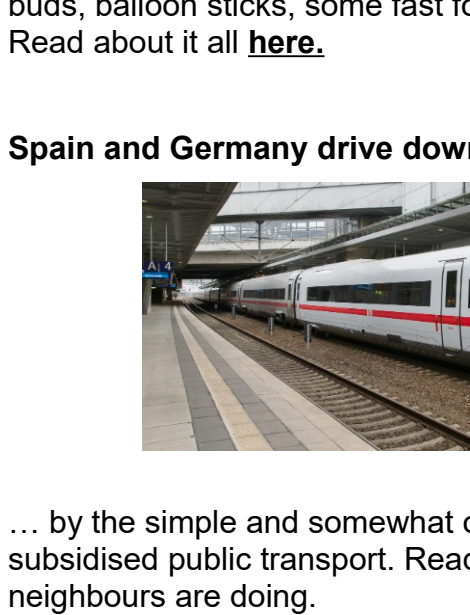
For more information on availability and price please contact Ryan - [enquiries@haye-farm.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@haye-farm.co.uk) or 07883 895389

## WFGA NEWS

### SustFest 2023 is coming!

Following the success of SustFest 2022 we intend to run Sustfest 2023 - from 29th April to 14th May. Please put these dates in your diary and start to think about whether your organisation is likely to have any event in that time period that you could open up to the wider public.

Or you might like to organise an event specially for SustFest !



Some reminders from SustFest 2022

### 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 a budget spend 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

### Truss abandons manifesto pledge on fracking



With new drilling licenses being issued, fracking is back on the agenda. However fracking will not ease the UK's energy crisis or bring down heating bills, but it will imperil climate targets, scientists and economists have said. Read the full analysis [here](#).

Furthermore, there is serious doubt if there is anything worth drilling for anyway. According to [this report](#) most of the gas has long since seeped away and Liz Truss is millions years too late!

### Why is Britain in such an energy predicament?



Guardian graphic | Source: Ember

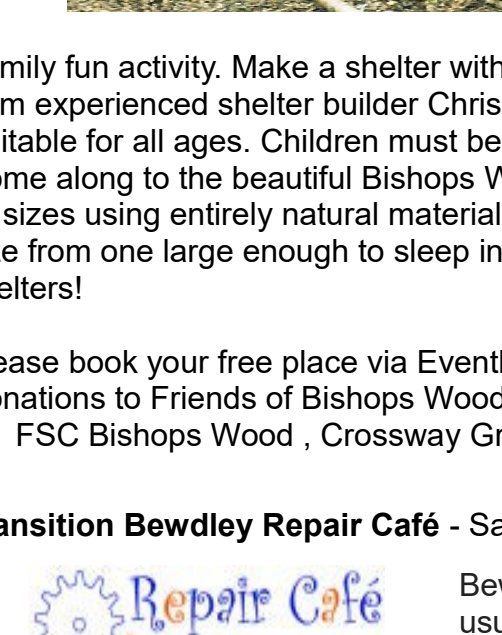
Two factors are combining to make UK households the worst hit in western Europe. The first reason is the UK's heavy reliance on gas to heat homes and produce electricity. We are paying for our 'Dash for Gas'. The second is that the UK has the least energy efficient homes in western Europe. Read more on the analysis [here](#).

### Energy Damage Limitation

There are various ways to ensure energy bills are kept in check. [This article](#) might help.

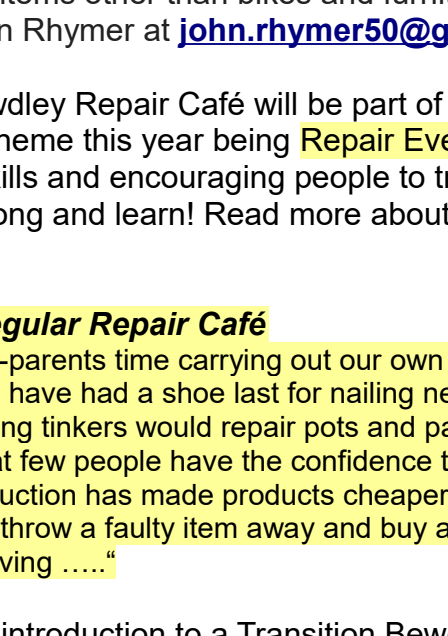


### Jamie Oliver's tips for Efficient Cooking



Plenty of tips plus comparisons of the cost of using various cooking devices. Read more [here](#).

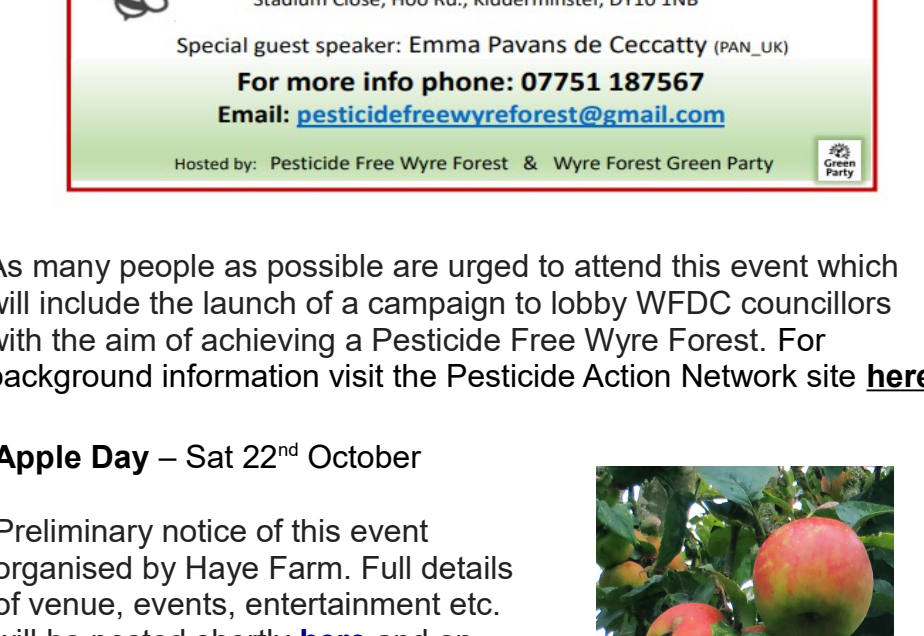
### An end to Glass Wine Bottles?



Plastic wine bottles

A new flat wine bottle is catching on fast in Australia. Made from plastic (that's the downside) it saves on the high energy used for glass production and produces a lighter bottle. But is this a good trade off? And will it make inroads in the UK? Read about it [here](#).

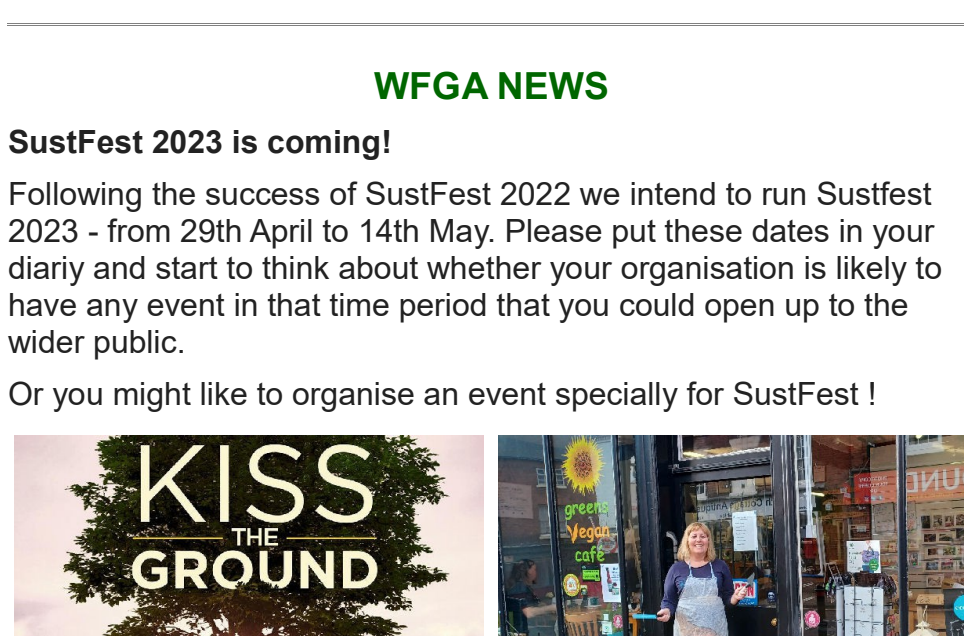
### Missing out on Government Energy Support?



This very informative article by the [Good Law Project](#) describes the various support schemes – check it out [here](#).

**The energy market is, as with many things, to a large extent dictated by consumer choice – you can make a difference by only buying green electricity.**

## CLIMATE CHANGE



Source: Energy Saving Trust

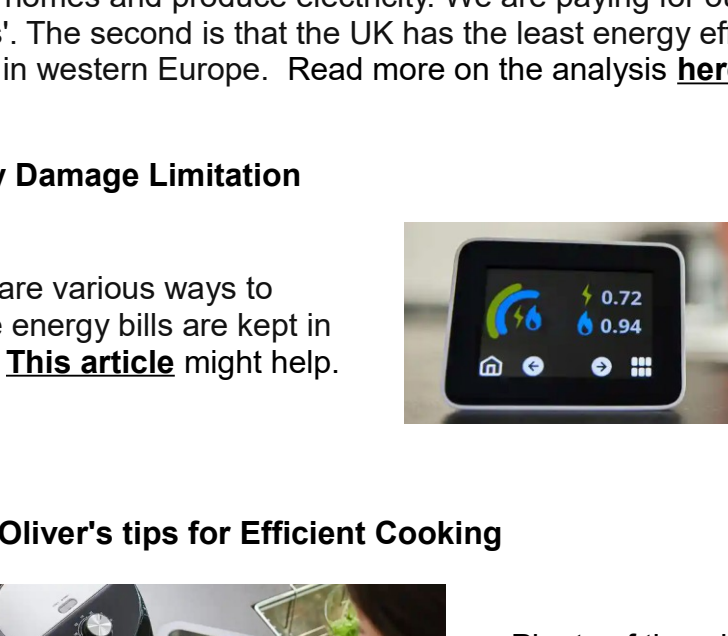
With energy grabbing the headlines it's easy to lose sight of the big picture. The above chart provides a useful reminder of the other factors driving climate change.

## FOOD ISSUES



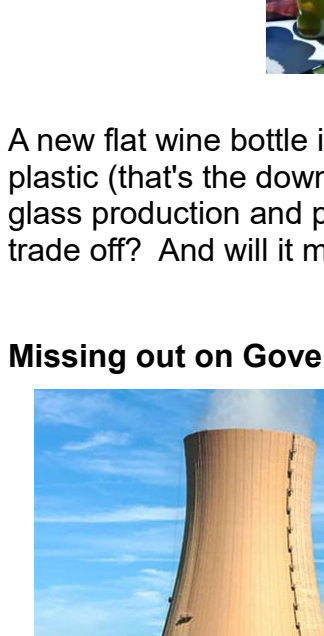
The debate on meat production and consumption rolls on with both sides of the debate finding plenty of supporters. [Here](#) is an appeal for a less rigid approach, a balanced view that could possibly accommodate the two sides?

### Green figs not ripening?



Here's a simple recipe to use them up. You'll end up with bottles of yummy figs in honey syrup. Check it out [here](#).

## GOOD READ OF THE MONTH



Hundreds of millennia of human activity stretch back behind us – the stone age and the bronze age and the iron age, the ancient world, the middle ages and onwards, culminating in today – whereas our mental image of our species' future tends either to be hazy or, in the event of an extinction-level catastrophe, terrifyingly short.

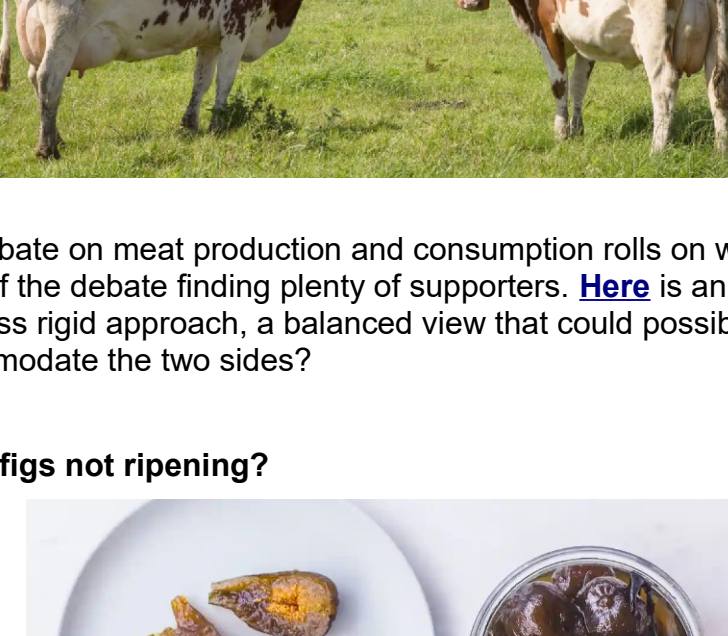
But there is another way to see things. Even if the world population were to fall by 90%, and if humans survive no longer than the average mammalian species, a million years in total, then **99.5% of all human experience has yet to be lived.**

Strange as it may seem, "we are the ancients," writes the Oxford University philosopher William MacAskill. "We live at the very beginning of history, in the most distant past." When we contemplate our moral responsibility to future generations, if we contemplate it at all, it can seem mainly like a matter of leaving the planet habitable for a few stragglers left to come. In reality, it's an opportunity to influence the fate of almost all the humans there will probably ever be.

Read the full Guardian review [here](#)

## GOOD NEWS OF THE MONTH

### On-shore Windfarms to get Go-Ahead?



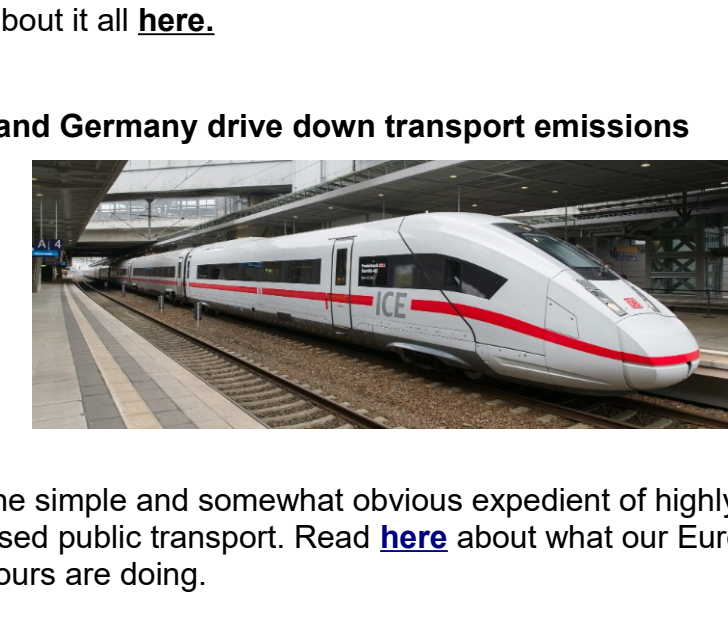
One piece of good news, for many the only piece of good news, in the Truss government's September budget - the de facto ban on land based wind farms will probably be lifted. Good news indeed for renewables! Read more [here](#).

### Wales to ban single use Plastic Bags



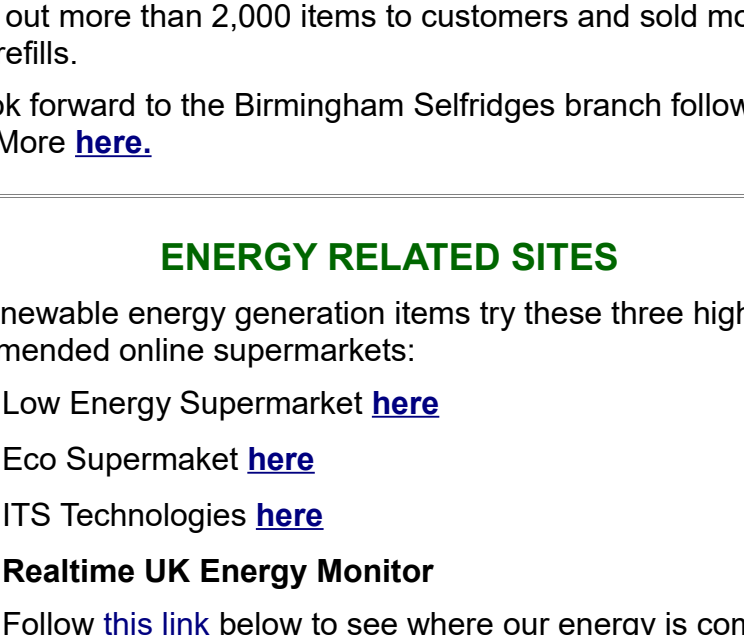
In 2011, Wales became one of the first countries in the world to introduce a charge for single-use carrier bags. Now it looks set to ban these bags altogether. Other single-use plastic items that would be banned include cutlery, plates, stirrers, plastic-stemmed cotton buds, balloon sticks, some fast food containers and drinking straws. Read about it all [here](#).

### Spain and Germany drive down transport emissions



... by the simple and somewhat obvious expedient of highly subsidised public transport. Read [here](#) about what our European neighbours are doing.

### Selfridges to become Reselfridges



When so many department stores have died, Selfridges is moving into sustainable shopping. It is aiming for almost half its sales to be based on resale, repair, rental or refills by 2030.

The London branch increased sales of secondhand items by 240% to 17,771 pieces last year and facilitating 28,000 repairs. It also rented out more than 2,000 items to customers and sold more than 8,000 refills.

We look forward to the Birmingham Selfridges branch following suit soon. More [here](#).

## ENERGY RELATED SITES

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

- Low Energy Supermarket [here](#)
- Eco Supermarket [here](#)
- ITS Technologies [here](#)

### Realtime UK Energy Monitor

Follow [this link](#) below to see where our energy is coming from.

And check out [lowimpact.org](http://lowimpact.org) for practical advice on all things eco, from solar to eco retreats.

## FREE RECYCLING SITES

### Wyre Forest Waste Exchange

### Wyre Forest Freegle

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!

Click [here](#) to visit.



Produced by Geo Meadows for the  
Wyre Forest Green Alliance

[wfgall@protonmail.com](mailto:wfgall@protonmail.com)

[www.wfgall.org.uk](http://www.wfgall.org.uk)