

Wyre Forest Green Alliance October Newsletter

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Monday 2nd October Green Drinks 8.0 pm at Bewdley Rowing Club. Everybody needs a HUG! Transition Bewdley invites you to join us to discuss how we can make our older homes and other buildings carbon neutral, whether or not you qualify for a “Home Upgrade Grant” (HUG). At least, that is where the discussion starts. Who knows where it may end up!

Thursday 5 October 2.0 – 4.0 pm ‘Guiding the Forest to the Future in Uncertain Times’ Uncillys Farm How is climate change impacting our local forest? What can we do about it? What can we expect to see in the future? Join us on a gentle wander around Ruskin Land and hear about some of the research projects we are participating in. Followed by tea and cake. Park and meet at Uncillys Farm.

Saturday 7th October, Kidderminster Repair Cafe 10am till 1pm at the Youth House, Bromsgrove Street, Kidderminster.

Saturday, 7th.October, 10:00am-4:00pm. Harvest Market. To celebrate this year's harvest, St. Anne's Church, Bewdley is opening its doors to local food/drink producers. There will be eight stalls selling local produce such as fruit juices, orchard fruits, lamb, wildflower seeds, honey, gin and much more. Meet your local food/drink producers.(Tea/coffee and cakes provided)

Saturday 21st October Apple Day at Bewdley Museum. 10.0 - 3.0. Display of the

Haye Farm apple varieties. Taste and buy apples and apple juice. All apples are hand picked from our traditional standard orchards. Local, pesticide free, nutritious and nature friendly. PLUS at 1pm - Vibrant Live Music from Wyre Forest U3A Ceilidh Band .

Saturday October 21st Bewdley Repair Café St Georges Hall, 10.0 am – 2.0 pm (last entry 1.0) Celebrate [International Repair Day](#) with us. Bring along your items for repair. Putting your garden to rest ready for winter? Bring along your shears and secateurs for sharpening. Have you cut through the cable of your hedge-trimmer? You are not the only one! We get several of those brought in each Autumn and our expert electrical repairers are usually able to help. Are you a fair-weather cyclist? Get our bike repairers to check and adjust your bike before you put it away in the shed for winter. If you are a hardier cyclist bring your bike along to make sure it is safe for all-weather cycling. Booking not required, except for bikes. To book these, contact John Rhymer on 01299 403424 or John.rhymer50@gmail.com

Saturday October 21st, 10.00 to 15.00. Art in the Forest Day

As part of the Bewdley Festival / Big Draw and Apple Day, Wyre Community Land Trust are holding Nature-based art workshops in Wyre Forest for all ages. This will be a free event held in Ruskin Land, aimed at the local community. It will include a variety of nature-based arts workshops, such as charcoal making and drawing, natural 'painting', ephemeral art, apple juicing. Kindly supported by Bewdley Community Arts Foundation. To book places - email liz@wclt.org.uk

Saturday the 28th of October, 10am-4pm, Haye Farm Pumpkin Day. Come along to pick a pumpkin, take it home and enjoy it. Refreshments will be provided, including tasty locally baked goods from The Doorstep Baker. Entry is free, just pay for your pumpkin and any refreshments on the day. Book on Eventbrite using the link below, or by replying to this email.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/pumpkin-picking-tickets-710222583867?aff=oddtcreator>

And some advance notices. Put the dates in your diaries!

Thursday 2 November 3pm St Anne's Church. "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. 2.0 – 4.30 pm. AGM for Wyre Forest Green Alliance

Come along and share your ideas of how WFGA can support your own organisation in your efforts to create a better and more sustainable District. Help create a vision of what our towns and villages could be in 10, 20, 50 years time. Nominate and elect the next steering group for WFGA. **Details and venue tbc.**

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.

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 Master's degree thesis. Please note this course requires booking, please email kate@wyrect.org.uk to book and for more information.

Spotlight on WFGA Member Organisation “Tree Spirit”

Tree Sprit is an environmental charity (charity number 801511) which combines practical conservation with education and raising awareness of all matters relating to trees We are a totally voluntary organisation and any money raised through donations or sales of merchandise go back into tree projects.

Over the years we have donated thousands of trees to many tree planting projects – many of which we have grown ourselves.

We have purchased three pieces of land which had been monoculture plantations and have planted them with mixed broadleaf trees. People are welcome to visit these sites, especially Maes Y Mynach near Oswestry, where we often have small gatherings and Coed Bryn Kendrick, where we have just made a small car parking area.

We also take educational material and tree related material to various events to help spread the message about the importance of trees and to encourage others to get actively involved.

Last Autumn in conjunction with Wyre Forest Green Alliance members, we have restarted a small nursery, near Bewdley, to grow various species of trees from seed which we can then give out for planting.

Now is the time to start collecting the majority of tree seeds, so please get involved. Make a note of where the seeds come from and the date collected. Keep any seeds cool and dry until you give them to us – or better still, until you come along and help us at the nursery and sow them yourselves. As a general rule, wait until a few seeds have fallen – you will then know that they are ready. However, once the first ones have fallen, you won't have very long before they all fall!

It is a little late now for Silver Birch, but you may still find seeds on a few sheltered trees. With trees that have cones like birch and alder, they are ready if when you rub them, the seeds easily fall out. With trees that have berries like Yew, Holly, Hawthorn etc, the seeds will need to be stratified. This can be done by yourselves or we can do it. If you stratify the seeds yourselves, make sure you clearly label what they are.

Last autumn I collected crab apples, put them in a bucket and then foolishly threw them out in the spring as I had forgotten what was in the bucket! There is a lot of information on collecting seeds on websites these days but a very useful booklet is *The Good Seed Guide published by The Tree Council* of which we still have a few copies available. See also suggestions below.

We will also take any saplings from your gardens that you may consider to be weeds. These will then be found good homes.

So if you would like to support us in any way please do, whether it be with the tree nursery, tree planting, helping at events, visiting any of our young woods or giving us a donation . If you would like any back issues of our newsletter/ magazines, containing all sorts of tree articles please get in touch. Please see our website for more information www.Treespirit.org.uk or contact us at martinames@hotmail.co.uk 01299 489762 or shelleyclaregriffiths@gmail.com 07931980069

Growing Trees from Seed.

Help us produce a supply of locally provenanced trees and shrubs. Start collecting seeds and berries and start them off in your own gardens. These can then be grown on in the Wyre Forest Green Alliance Tree Nursery before being planted locally to bring nature into urban areas, restore landscapes and create wildlife corridors.
<https://treecouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Seed-Gathering-Season-growing-trees-from-seed.pdf>

Collecting seeds from nuts, hips and berries

Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*)

Hard green clusters. Collect before they turn brown and woody.

Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*)

Blue-black, downy fruit. Squeeze flesh to remove seed.

Elder (*Sambucus nigra*)

Black berries. Squeeze to remove seed.

Guelder rose (*Viburnum opulus*)

Bright red berries. Squeeze to remove seed.

Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*)

Dull red berries. Each berry contains only one seed.

Hazel (*Corylus avellans*)

Hard cobnuts. They are ripe for collecting then they change from green to brown.

Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*)

Red berries. Squeeze fruit to remove seed.

Shrub roses (*Rosa species*) Red hips. Mash to pulp and leave to dry before extracting seed.

<https://treegrowing.tcv.org.uk/grow>