



## WFGA NEWSLETTER

September 2022

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

The following editorial is very different from that written and distributed in July, and actually lets a much needed ray of hope shine in. The difference is the Biden administration's Inflation Reduction Act. [More on this below.](#)

After yet another scorching summer there can be no doubt about the urgency of taking measures to make the country more resilient, and also to meet our net-zero COP obligations. A recent court decision shows how the government is failing on these issues – the government has 6 months to show how targets will be met. [Read about this judgment](#) and some of the damning evidence presented.

David Cameron's 'other legacy' is to have scuppered more stringent house building standards (we'll leave you to ponder why) so since 2018 we have built half a million homes that are unsuited to coping with high temperatures (and are woefully inefficient in winter of course) and we plan to build another 1.5m similarly inadequate homes over the next 5 years. Full report [here](#).

And so it goes on. The present government's [recently released 'Jet-Zero' document](#) which purports to generate a low emission aviation industry actually increases air passenger numbers by 75% and proposes airport expansion.

But it's not all doom and gloom. Over in the US, after much wrangling and paring down, and with every Republican voting against, it is now virtually certain that the Biden administration will manage to enact a \$370bn bill to promote climate-friendly infrastructure. It is estimated that the bill will reduce America's planet-heating emissions by about 40% by 2030.

With the US responsible for 28% of global emissions, this is a huge move forward and sets an important marker for others, the UK in particular. It looks like the next PM will be Liz Truss. Reputedly a big fan of mathematics, let's hope she can 'do the maths' on how to make the UK more resilient to the effects of climate change. The government's own adviser, the Climate Change Committee, is looking at a sum of around £50bn. That's where the politics comes in. And that dear reader is also where you come in.

If you have not already done so, please could you consider adding your name to an open letter to Mark Garnier asking him to support the Climate & Ecology Bill. If you can, for maximum effect, print it off and post it.

Simply follow [this link](#) for details

## MEMBER ORGANISATION NEWS

*Your Event  
could be  
HERE !*

All you have to do is tell us about it!

Last date for copy for the October newsletter is **23<sup>rd</sup> September.**

### XR Wyre Forest – Group Meeting – Wed 31st Aug

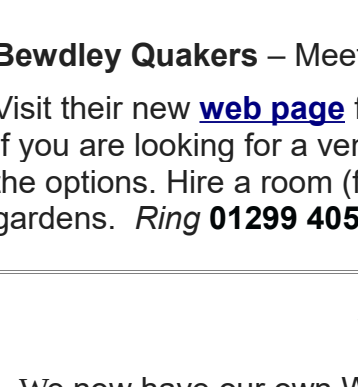


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Following last week's lively "Climate Conversation" event, a chance to meet and build on possible responses to the climate and ecological emergency. 7pm - 9:30pm at Bewdley Quaker Meeting House - DY12 2DP.

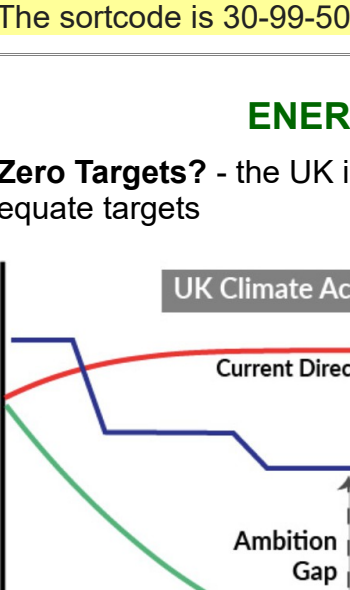
*limited parking  
Gardner's Meadow is very close*

### Transition Kidderminster - Repair Café Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept



This popular local service will be back after the August break to carry out all manner of repairs, sewing and tool sharpening. At Youth House, Bromsgrove Street, Kidderminster.

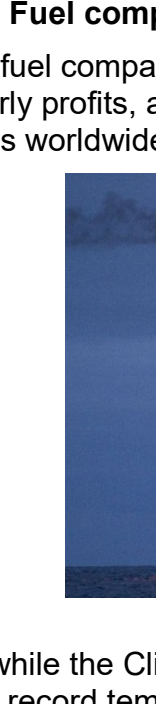
### Transition Bewdley Repair Café - Sat 17<sup>th</sup> Sept



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))

### Pesticide-Free Wyre Forest - Sat 17<sup>th</sup> Sept 10am

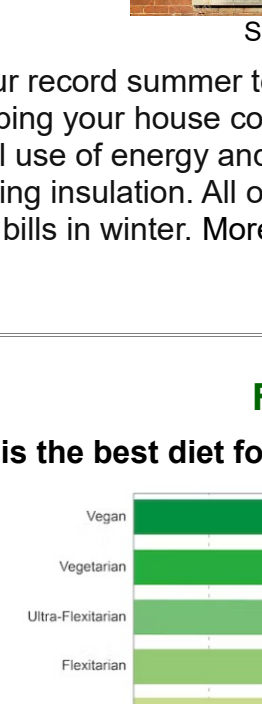


*Event will begin at 10am with an intro to Organic Gardening by Callie Dawes of Simply Limitless followed at 11am by a Walk & Talk through the nearby Puxton Marsh Nature Reserve. Bring refreshments and snacks. Allow 2-3 hours.*

[At the Simply Limitless Wellbeing Centre, Puxton Lane, Kidderminster. DY11 5DF. Free parking available.](#)

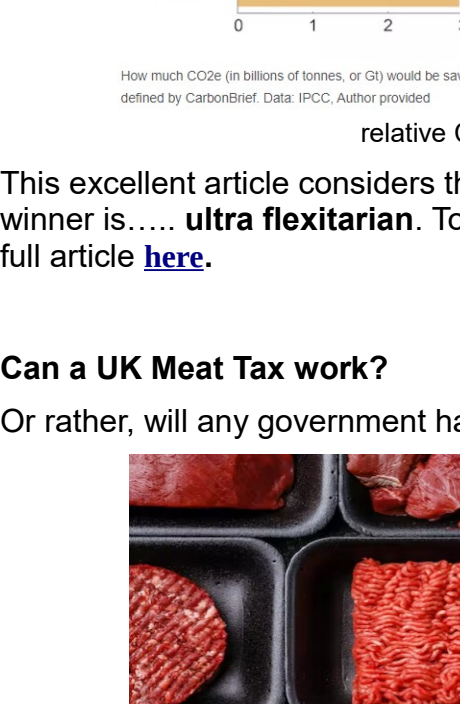
Callie, along with her husband, grows cut flowers and runs workshops all with organic principles to help people grow plants at home and benefit wildlife. Cut flowers will be available to purchase if you wish, all proceeds to Simply Limitless Wellbeing Centre. Places limited to 15-20 people so please book at [pesticidefreewyreforest@gmail.com](mailto:pesticidefreewyreforest@gmail.com)

### Tree Spirit AGM in Wales - 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept Equinox Weekend



Tree Spirit is having its AGM and a bit of a celebration on their land, lovingly called Maesy, near Oswestry in Wales. If you want to get to know them and see their land, plant a tree, have a celebration, camp out on the land - call Shelley on 07931980069 for more details

### Climate Service at St Anne's Bewdley - Sun 25<sup>th</sup> Sept 9am



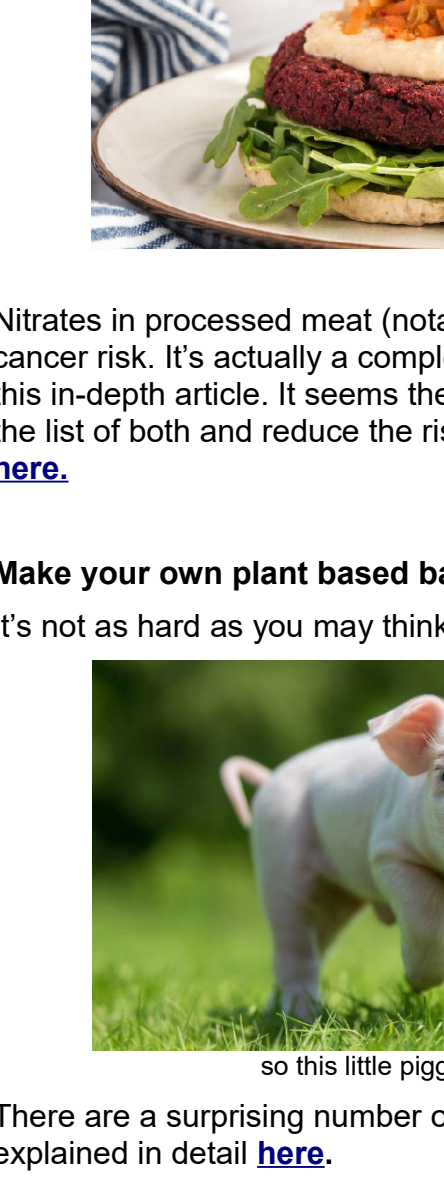
St Anne's Church, Load Street, Bewdley, DY12 2AE

Celebrating our wonderful world, and lamenting our destruction of so much of the planet and committing ourselves afresh to striving for its healing and protection.

Stay for refreshments afterwards to discuss potential action.

St Anne's also hosts the WFGA library of books to borrow.

### Sponsored performance, St George's Hall – Tue, 27<sup>th</sup> Sep 7:30pm



A live performance of 'Breeding Grounds' by Journeyman Theatre. A thought provoking play for our troubled times. Free admission.

Organised by **Bewdley Quakers** as part of National Quaker week.

7:30pm at St George's Hall, Bewdley, DY12 2EQ

Ring 01299 405214 for more details.

*Breeding Grounds follows Stuart and Ingrid, they have been together a long time but the fault lines in their relationship are getting ever more fragile.*

*Ingrid sees life through the focus of her work as an agency carer and climate change activist, whilst Stuart is a backbench MP. His perspectives are based on political pragmatism, hers on a sense of urgency and the belief that change must begin with each individual.*

*Breeding Grounds explores the human response to sustainability, world population and the moral dilemmas that are now facing each and every one of us in our daily lives. And to which we have to find our own accommodating solutions in the face of what seems to many to be a state of political inertia.*

### Bewdley Quakers – Meeting House for hire

Visit their new [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.

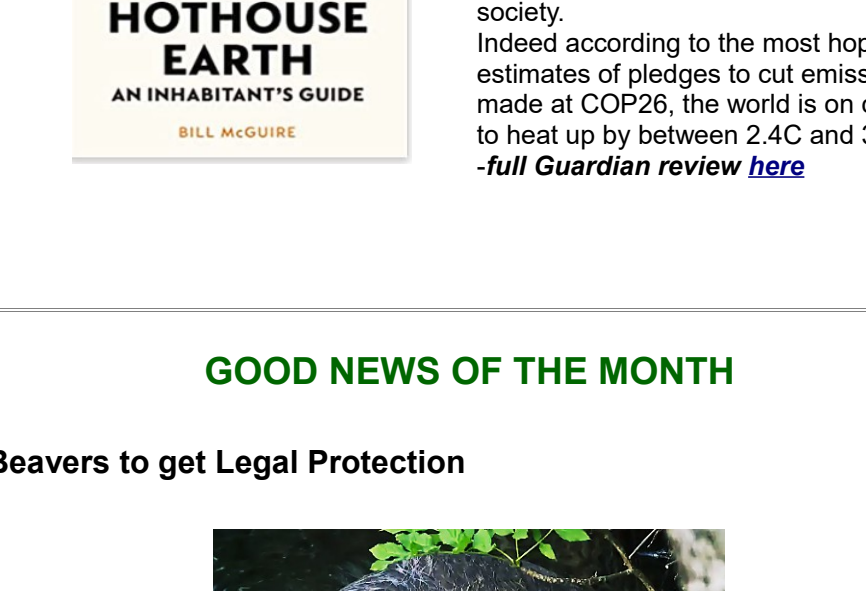
## WFGA NEWS

We now have our own Wyre Forest Green Alliance bank account and welcome any donations to our funds that member organisations would like to make.

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

## ENERGY MATTERS

### Net Zero Targets? - the UK is a mile off meeting even its own inadequate targets



From Zero Hour's Campaign on the Climate and Ecology Bill

The UK Government's strategy for getting to Net Zero is inadequate and unlawful, the High Court has found, following a successful legal challenge brought by Good Law Project, Joanna Wheatley, Client Earth and Friends of the Earth.

The Climate Change Act requires Government to hit Net Zero by 2050, to make proposals as to how it will meet that target, and to place a report before Parliament. Read more [here](#).

It will be interesting to see how they manage to bat this one away!

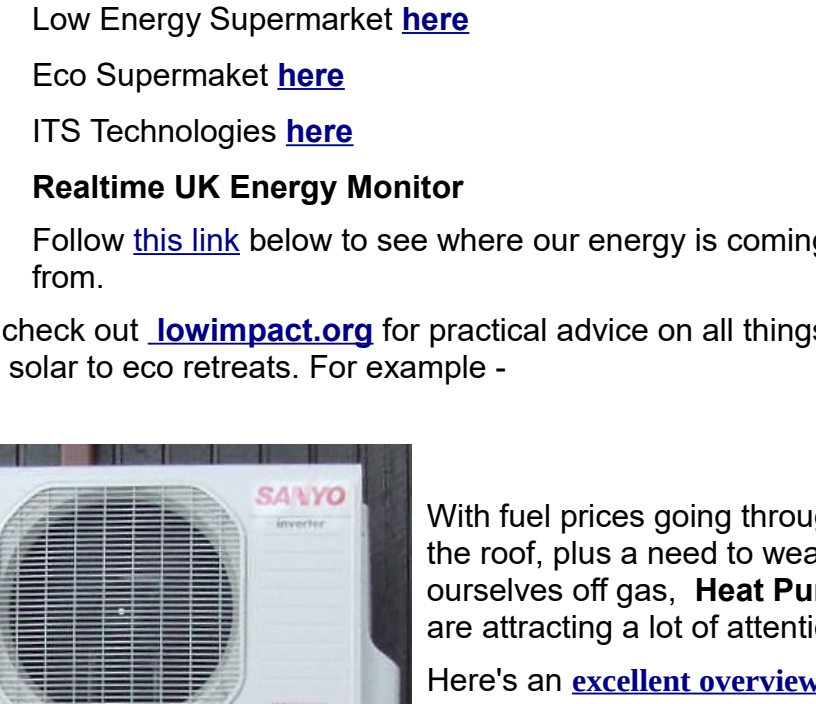
### Fossil Fuel companies make a killing

Fossil fuel companies are making an enormous \$100 billion in quarterly profits, at massive cost to the climate and to the millions of families worldwide left with the bill on spiralling energy costs.



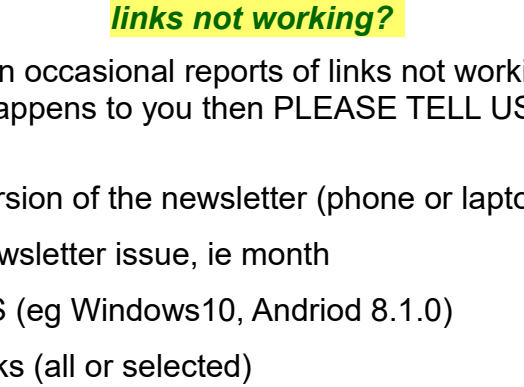
North Sea Fossil Fuel Rigs

Meanwhile the Climate Crisis is making its presence felt in Britain. With a record temperature of over 40C in July, a prolonged heatwave in August, drought conditions in much of the country, and houses being destroyed by wildfires, the case for serious action could not be stronger.



The village of Wennington, Havering, London (July 2022)

## COPING WITH CLIMATE CHANGE



Simple lo-tech shutters

After our record summer temperatures (again!) here are some ideas for keeping your house cool using passive measures, requiring minimal use of energy and fuel, by improving natural ventilation and increasing insulation. All of which have the extra benefit of reducing energy bills in winter. More [here](#).

## FOOD ISSUES

### Which is the best diet for you and the planet?



This excellent article considers the complex issues involved and the winner is..... **ultra flexitarian**. To find out what this means read the full article [here](#).

### Can a UK Meat Tax work?

Or rather, will any government have the courage to introduce it?



set for price increases of between 19% and 56%

One way is to start now with a very low tax level and get people accustomed to the idea. If we want to stand any chance of limiting climate change then a significant meat tax is inevitable. It will have to happen sooner or later. Recent studies show how the figures stack up. Read more [here](#).

### Nitrates, Nitrites, and Cancer



Nitrates in processed meat (notably bacon) have long been linked to cancer risk. It's actually a complex story, but explained admirably by this in-depth article. It seems there are 'good' nitrates and 'bad'. Get the list of both and reduce the risk of health problems. Full article [here](#).

### Make your own plant based bacon

It's not as hard as you may think - and not a pig in sight.



so this little piggy didn't go to market

There are a surprising number of ways to make 'bacon' and they are explained in detail [here](#).

### Feeling the Pinch?



With the average annual grocery bill on course to rise by almost £400 this year, there is no magic recipe to remedy price rises of this magnitude but there are still many ways to reduce costs at home. You are sure to pick up a few useful tips from [this excellent article](#).

## GOOD READS OF THE MONTH



I have always been suspicious of the degrowthers imagining that they advocated returning to a medieval lifestyle. Then I came across "Less is More" by Jason Hickel which convinced me degrowth should have serious consideration.

The book is a tapestry of economics, history, philosophy and anthropology skilfully woven together. Part one of the book deals with the rise of capitalism. According to the author capitalism is the only expansionist economic system in history. It is organised around the idea of perpetual growth. The goal of capital is to extract and accumulate surplus and it gets these as cheap as possible. It works according to a simple rule- take more from nature and labour than you give back.

The history of capitalism has been distorted to make it seem a natural expression of human nature. As it is an innate expression of human nature problems like inequality and ecological breakdown are inevitable. This idea has become embedded in our culture but history shows there was no natural transition to capitalism. Rather it was brutally imposed using violence, mass impoverishment and destruction of self sufficient subsistence peasant economies.

In part two Professor Hickel describes the "pathways to a post capitalist world". Ending planned obsolescence, reducing advertising, scaling down ecologically destructive industries are some of the steps he describes. Shortening the working week would follow naturally because as economies become more rational and efficient less labour would be required.

This book is not some dry economic tome nor a party political tract. It is a visionary book which shows that there is a possibility of a richer future free from growthism and rooted in a relationship with the living world. - **Phil Oliver**



'Hothouse Earth' by Bill McGuire professor of geophysical and climate hazards at University College London, makes very dire, grim depictions of the coming climatic catastrophe.

Whilst most other climate experts still maintain we have time left, although not very much, McGuire argues a rise of 2C is already dialled in and will seriously threaten the stability of global society.

Indeed according to the most hopeful estimates of pledges to cut emissions made at COP26, the world is on course to heat up by between 2.4C and 3C. -**full Guardian review here**

## GOOD NEWS OF THE MONTH

### Beavers to get Legal Protection



This is a major step forward for the charismatic rodents which were hunted to extinction in England 400 years ago but have reappeared owing to illegal releases around the country.

The government has also been licensing beaver releases inside enclosures, and some environmentalists hope that later this year in the upcoming beaver strategy there will be permissions for the rodents to be released to roam wild. Their efforts in both flood and drought alleviation are much needed.

Legislation is planned for 1st October. We hope it does not suffer as a result of the leadership changes.

### Bison Return To UK



The steppe bison (Bison priscus) roamed ancient Britain's countryside until roughly 6,000 years ago when they were made extinct. Today we realise that bison can help in the restoration of naturally functioning ecosystems and are an inexpensive tool in tackling the climate crisis.

"We want Wilder Blean reserve to mark the beginning of a new era for conservation in the UK. We need to revolutionise the way we restore natural landscapes, relying less on human intervention and more on natural engineers like bison, boar and beaver." - *Evan Bowen-Jones, CEO at Kent Wildlife Trust*

### Cheetahs Return to India



Despite being a vital part of India's ecosystem, the cheetah was declared extinct from the country in 1952 because of habitat loss and poaching. Now, cheetahs are to return to India's forests this August for the first time in more than 70 years. Eight wild cats from Namibia will roam freely at Kuno-Palpur national park in the state of Madhya Pradesh in efforts to reintroduce the animal to their natural habitat. Read the full story [here](#).

## ENERGY RELATED SITES

For renewable energy generation sites 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](#) for practical advice on all things eco, from solar to eco retreats. For example -



With fuel prices going through the roof, plus a need to wean ourselves off gas, **Heat Pumps** are attracting a lot of attention.

Here's an [excellent overview](#) from LowImpact.org

## FREE RECYCLING SITES

### Wyre Forest Waste Exchange

### Wyre Forest Freegle

[links not working?](#)

There have been occasional reports of links not working when clicked. If this happens to you then PLEASE TELL US and let us know:

- which version of the newsletter (phone or laptop)
- which newsletter issue, ie month
- which OS (eg Windows10, Android 8.1.0)
- which links (all or selected)
- which browser (eg Chrome)

Simple first level advice is to try another browser. And please let us know if this works for you.

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If you have a view on any of the pieces in this WFGA Newsletter this can be your platform!

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