

WFGA Newsletter April 2026

Contents.

Tuesday 31st March 10:30am – 3pm [“Easter Nature”](#) at Bishops Wood Centre

Wednesday 1st April – 10:30am – 3pm. [“Easter Nature”](#) at Bishops Wood Centre

Wednesday 1st April. [Green Drinks](#) at Bewdley Rowing Club.

Thursday 2nd April, 4pm – 6pm, [Rake and Cake](#) at Holy Trinity Church, Trimpley

Saturday 4th April 10am till 1pm [Repair Cafe Kidderminster](#)

Tuesday April 7th 7.30-9pm. [Wyre Forest Climate Choir](#)

Tuesday April 14th 7.30-9pm. [Wyre Forest XR](#)

Saturday 18th April. [Bewdley Repair Café](#) at St. George’s Hall. 10.0 a.m. – 1.0 p.m.

Saturday 18th April. 10.0 – 2.0 [Greener living Fair](#) in Kidderminster Town Hall

Tuesday April 21st 7.30-9pm. [Wyre Forest Climate Choir](#)

Saturday 25 April The Bewdley Festival - [Step Into Stories](#)

Saturday 25 April 6.0pm [The Mayors Concert](#) in St. Anne’s Church.

Tuesday April 28th 7.30-9pm. [Wyre Forest XR](#).

Thursday 30th of April - [Warm Space Celebration](#) Event

Sunday 3rd May 10.0 – 14.0 [Seed and Plant Swap](#).

[Switch Solar Together](#) scheme

[CARP](#) (Communities Against River Pollution) The Rights of Rivers

[Wyre Forest Cycle Forum](#)

[The War Tax on Our Climate Future](#)

Events.

Tuesday 31st March 10:30am – 3pm “Easter Nature” at Bishops Wood Centre Enjoy a day of nature – involves pond dipping, Woodland Trail, Easter Egg Hunt Game plus much more for only £5 per person. Book here: <https://fsc.cinolla.com/bishopswood/>

Wednesday 1st April – 10:30am – 3pm. “Easter Nature” at Bishops Wood Centre Enjoy a day of nature – involves pond dipping, Woodland Trail, Easter Egg Hunt Game plus much more for only £5 per person.

Book here: <https://fsc.cinolla.com/bishopswood/>

Wednesday 1st April. Green Drinks at Bewdley Rowing Club. 8.0 pm. “Mind Your Language!”. A special April Fool’s Day session where we will take a sideways / lighthearted approach to the issues. Please note the change of date from our usual first Monday of the month.

Language dictates much of our attitude to the world - for example Inuit have no single word for 'snow' and the indigenous people of the Congo have no single word for 'tree'.

in other words, some of our Western language inhibits a holistic, inclusive and sophisticated approach to 'environment'.

You are invited to come up with words and phrases that you would ban for 6 months?

Malcolm Currie certainly has a few! - for example 'green'; 'absolutely'; 'going forward'; 'climate change'; Can you think of alternative phrases which challenge whilst avoiding over familiarity?

All welcome to join a convivial group in the Rowing Club bar for drinks and a supportive chat. A range of excellent local beers plus wines and soft drinks are available.

Thursday 2nd April, 4pm – 6pm, Rake and Cake at Holy Trinity Church, Trimpley

An afternoon of churchyard maintenance, please bring your own gardening gloves and hand held garden tools eg, secateurs, rakes, trowels etc. A great opportunity to be in the fresh air and meet with others – plenty of coffee and cake on offer...Caring for the churchyard; Caring for each other. Repeated Fortnightly – **also 16th and 30th April**. If you need further details contact Sue MacAskill suemaclLM@outlook.com

Saturday 4th April 10am till 1pm Repair Cafe Kidderminster at the Youth House Bromsgrove Street Kidderminster. Sewing, sharpening, electrical, mechanical, woodwork all manner of repairs undertaken by talented volunteers. Items should be clean and not contain fuel. Donations only. Refreshments available. See you there!

Tuesday April 7th 7.30-9pm. Wyre Forest Climate Choir meeting and rehearsal at Offmore Church Hall Gray Close Kidderminster DY10 3YE. Tackle the climate crisis through song. We sing locally and as part of the national Climate Choir movement. Contact Hilary at hilarymueller@hotmail.com

Tuesday April 14th 7.30-9pm. Wyre Forest XR group meeting at Quaker Meeting House Lower Park Bewdley DY12 2DP.

Join our friendly and active local group. The UK's Joint Intelligence Community have acknowledged that climate change is a threat to our national security. Could you be a "Planet Medic"? Just turn up or contact Dave on 0747 1207181.

Saturday 18th April. Bewdley Repair Café at St. George's Hall. 10.0 a.m. – 1.0 p.m. As usual, our wonderful volunteers will be on hand to repair your kitchen gadgets, clocks and household items. With the weather improving, this will be the time to get your garden implements sharpened.

For the next Repair Café session, our lovely Bike Repairers will be at Burlish Bike Park from 10.0 – 2.0: operating a Bicycle Repair Café. Don't let a squeaky chain or a loose bolt ruin your ride!

Bring your bike down to the park for some expert TLC. Whether it's a minor adjustment or a quick safety check, our volunteers are here to help get you back on the trails.

Location: Burlish Bike Park, Kingsway, Stourport-on-Severn, DY13 8NL

No Booking Required: Just roll up with your bike! Get expert advice: Minor repairs, gear indexing, and safety checks. Grab a coffee and a slice of cake from the on-site Café while you wait.

Saturday 18th April. 10.0 – 2.0 Greener living Fair in Kidderminster Town Hall on Following the huge success of the last two events, a Greener Energy Fair in Bewdley in February and a Wildlife and Countryside Fair in March (which attracted nearly 500 visitors), Wyre Forest Green Alliance is organising a **Greener living Fair in Kidderminster Town Hall on Saturday 18th April. 10.0 – 2.0**

Arts & crafts, children's activities, stalls and info to help you be more eco-friendly.

If you would like a stall at the event, please contact Ronnie Lee on ronaldanthonylee@gmail.com

Tuesday April 21st 7.30-9pm. Wyre Forest Climate Choir meeting and rehearsal at Offmore Church Hall Gray Close Kidderminster DY10 3YETackle the climate crisis through song. We sing locally and as part of the national Climate Choir movement. Contact Hilary at hilarymueller@hotmail.com

Saturday 25 April The Bewdley Festival - Step into Stories event in venues all around Bewdley with talks and experiences for young readers of all ages. Visit www.bewdleyfestival.org.uk for details and to reserve your space.

Saturday 25 April 6.0pm The Mayors Concert in St. Anne's Church. The Bewdley Festival is supporting the Mayors Concert featuring the music of Bewdley. Visit www.bewdleyfestival.org.uk to secure your ticket.

Tuesday April 28th 7.30-9pm. Wyre Forest XR group meeting at Quaker Meeting House Lower Park Bewdley DY12 2DP. Actions speak louder than words....although both are important in the fight to counter misinformation about climate change. All are welcome to join us at our regular fortnightly meetings. Just turn up or contact Dave on 0747 1207181.

Thursday 30th of April - Warm Space Celebration Event –, Wribbenhall Community Centre, Shawhedge Road, Bewdley.

Celebrate the wonderful work of local Warm Space groups in Wyre Forest

- **Share** your stories, experiences and ideas
- **Connect** with fellow hosts, partners and supporters
- **Be inspired** to continue this vital work in our community
- **Discover** support and resources available to you

Light refreshments will be served, and there'll be plenty of time to chat and network. Please contact Jenny Moreton for more information or to book a place. jennifer.moreton@wyreforestdc.gov.uk

Sunday 3rd May 10.0 – 14.0 Seed and Plant Swap.
Jelleyman' Heritage Arts , Puxton Lane, DY11 5DF.
Workshops, Tips, Free seeds, Tea and Cake. See poster below.



Switch Solar Together scheme. A reminder that this is open for registration till 26th April.

Thinking about installing solar panels? It can be difficult to navigate the quotes, technical terms, and wide range of options. The Switch Together Wyre Forest scheme is a council-backed collective purchase scheme, set up to help households invest in solar panels and battery storage with clear guidance, trusted support, and fair, transparent pricing. The scheme is free to join, provides vetted installers, and offers tailored personal recommendations. To find out more, or to register for free and without obligation see [Switch Together Wyre Forest](#)

CARP (Communities Against River Pollution) The Rights of Rivers

CARP has recently launched a petition which we would like all WFGA members to sign. Our target is to reach the **1018** signatures required so that Wyre Forest District Council will discuss granting our stretch of the River Severn a River Rights Charter with a guardianship structure.

Why do we want this?

Unlike some countries, there is no national legislation in the UK which gives rivers rights. Having a river charter which gives the river certain rights e.g the right to flow, to be free from pollution, to exist in its natural state, and to have its voice represented in planning and decision-making, means that, with measurable targets attached to the charter, the council will be required to take the River into consideration when planning applications are submitted. It also gives the River a status which at the moment is ignored. 40 councils are considering River Rights with the River Wye (our nearest neighbour) having been granted a charter on 9 Mar 2026 by Herefordshire Council.

The granting of these charters is a way of protecting our rivers and is also the starting point in a conversation which we hope will eventually move to a national legislative process.

You can find the petition here:

<https://www.change.org/RiverSevernCharter>

We urge you to sign the petition.

The petition and its theme 'Rights of Rivers' will be central to the first Bewdley River Festival that CARP is currently planning. This will be an Arts based festival with events and activities from June 7th through to World Rivers Day on 27th September 2026.

More information can be found on our soon to be launched website:

<https://severncarp.org.uk/>

CARP needs WFGA members to support this festival and you can do that in many ways:

- Attend events/activities
- Become a festival volunteer
- Join us in our Bewdley Carnival walking Procession on 27 June (River themed clothes or headdress)
- Donate to help us raise funds for the festival .

Interested?

Please email
Severncarp123@gmail.com

Wyre Forest Cycle Forum

Creating safer routes for local people

A handy ABC checklist for getting your bike ready for Spring

With warmer, drier weather lots of people are thinking of getting back on their bike. If yours has not been used over winter - but it's been somewhere dry - it should be in roughly the same state as when you last used it. To be on the safe side, check these before riding:

Air in your tyres

Check that your tyres are OK - good tread and not cracked – and that they're within a safe range of air pressure. On the side of each tyre look closely to find the minimum and maximum pressure. Towards the lower end of the range it will tend to be more comfortable to ride and a bit grippier - but with a slightly higher chance of getting a puncture.

Brakes

You really need these to work well. Try pushing the bike forwards with the front brake on, then backwards with the back brake on. Each brake should easily stop the bike. If it does not, the brakes will need adjusting. This may be as simple as turning an adjuster. If not, you may need to adjust the brakes/change pads - if not sure, seek help from someone who is.

Chain and Controls

A clean, smooth-running chain is highly efficient at turning a bit of your energy into motion. If needed, an old toothbrush followed by oil can help. You don't need to use harmful PTFE based products - greener, biodegradable oil is available.

Make sure there are no rattles and check that all controls and fixings are securely attached (but not over-tightened). If in doubt get it serviced.

Wyre Forest Cycle Forum next meeting

The Wyre Forest 3 Towns Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan is due to be published by April on the Worcestershire County Council website. We aim to discuss it at the next Wyre Forest Cycle Forum Meeting on Wednesday 15th April 2026, 2pm at Wyre Forest House DY11 7WF

Why not join us? To find out more email: info@wyreforestcycling.co.uk

The War Tax on Our Climate Future

Every time a missile strike destroys a wind farm under construction, every time oil revenues fund another proxy conflict, every time a nation delays a clean energy commitment because it can't afford to alienate a "petro state" ally, the clock on the climate crisis ticks a little faster. The relationship between fossil fuels, armed conflict, and the stalling of the green transition is not coincidental. It is structural.

Fuelling the Fight

This may be uncomfortable but it's actually straightforward. The world's largest oil producing nations and corporations generate revenues that, by any reasonable accounting, underwrite instability. Russia's invasion of Ukraine was financed in no small part by European dependence on Russian natural gas; a dependency that took decades of lobbying and infrastructure investment to create and lock in. Saudi Arabia's war in Yemen has been sustained by oil wealth. In the Gulf of Guinea, the Niger Delta, and the Permian Basin alike, the pattern holds: where fossil fuel extraction concentrates wealth, conflict follows the pipeline.

This is no longer a fringe argument. A 2019 study published in the **Journal of Conflict Resolution** found that oil wealth



significantly increases the probability of civil conflict onset. The International Monetary Fund has documented how commodity price volatility, driven largely by fossil fuel markets, destabilises government revenues in developing nations, creating the conditions insurgencies exploit.

The fossil fuel industry does not cause every war. But it reliably provides the kindling.

War's Quiet Climate Toll

Wars impose a carbon cost that rarely appears in emissions accounting. Military operations are among the most fuel intensive activities humanity undertakes. The U.S. Department of Defence, for example, is one of the single largest institutional consumers of fossil fuels on Earth. Fighter jets, armoured vehicles, naval fleets, and forward operating bases run on petroleum. A study by researchers at Brown University's Costs of War Project estimated that the post 9/11 wars generated over 1.2 billion metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions. And to put that in context, that's roughly equivalent to the annual emissions of Japan.

Burning oil is not the only problem. Wars destroy the infrastructure of transition. Ukraine had, before the 2022 invasion, become a significant player in European wind energy development. Those projects are now on hold, their timelines measured not in years but in the duration of an unpredictable conflict. In Gaza, Libya, Sudan, and Syria, the basic infrastructure required for any future energy grids, institutions, technical workforces, has been reduced to rubble. Reconstruction, when it comes, rarely prioritises renewables. It prioritises speed.

The Geopolitical Trap

Perhaps the most insidious dimension of the fossil fuel war nexus is the way it warps the political calculus of climate commitment. Nations that depend on petro-states for energy security, military alliances, or regional stability face a structural disincentive to accelerate the transition away from oil. To phase out fossil fuels is to potentially destabilise governments whose cooperation is needed. It may also anger domestic industries with enormous lobbying power. And it can strand assets that are also, in many cases, strategic assets.

This is not cynicism, it is the daily arithmetic of foreign ministries around the world. The United States has long balanced climate rhetoric against its relationship with Saudi Arabia. Europe's Green Deal has repeatedly collided with the political reality of energy dependence. Japan's decarbonisation timeline bends around LNG contracts with Gulf producers. The fossil fuel industry's grip on the international order is not merely economic. It is military, diplomatic, and deeply entrenched.

The Case Study We Didn't Ask For

On 28 February 2026, the United States and Israel launched joint surprise airstrikes on Iran, killing Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei and triggering the largest oil supply disruption in the history of global energy markets. The war, now in its fourth week, has become an almost clinical demonstration of the points in this article.

The cause, Iran's nuclear programme and its network of regional proxies is inseparable from decades of fossil fuel financed regional power. Iran's ability to fund Hezbollah, Hamas, and the Houthis was built on oil revenues. Its adversaries' willingness to act was shaped in part by American and Israeli calculations about what a nuclear armed petro state in the Middle East would mean for the regional order. The war did not begin because of oil. But the entire architecture of power that made it possible and made it feel necessary is drenched in it.

What followed has validated, in the starkest possible terms, the vulnerability the fossil fuel system creates. Iran's partial closure of the Strait of Hormuz, through which roughly 20 percent of the world's oil and a fifth of its liquefied natural gas ordinarily flows, caused Brent crude to surge past \$120 per barrel. The International Energy Agency described the disruption as the greatest global energy and food security challenge in history. In the UK, gas prices doubled within days; UK households face potential energy bills of £2,500 a year when the price cap is updated in July. Gulf Cooperation Council states, which rely on the Strait for over 80 percent of their caloric intake, experienced acute food supply emergencies. The global economy is being repriced in real time around a single narrow waterway.

Here, too, is the cruelest irony for the green transition. The strikes were launched the day after Oman's foreign minister announced that Iran had reached a diplomatic breakthrough, agreeing to never stockpile enriched uranium and to full IAEA verification. Peace, he said, was "within reach." The attack came anyway.

What has followed is not a strategic pivot to clean energy but a scramble for alternative fossil fuel supply chains, emergency LNG contracts, and renewed political pressure to revive North Sea drilling. Near term necessity is literally, eating long term necessity alive.

And yet there is Hope

However, the crisis is also accelerating something else. IEA chief Fatih Birol has noted that the energy transition was moving strongly before the war began, and that the fallout will likely push countries toward renewables as an energy security imperative. Analysts at the energy think tank Ember have pointed out that unlike previous oil shocks, solar, wind, and battery technology are now genuinely cost competitive meaning the price pain of this conflict has an alternative that the 1970s crisis did not. The logic is shifting: clean energy is no longer primarily a climate argument. It is, as one researcher put it, an argument about “eliminating imported fuels altogether.”

Breaking the Cycle requires Courage and Integrity

If hope is accompanied by the courage to act decisively and with integrity, then who knows what future we might create for our planet and all its inhabitants both humans and beyond human. However, none of this is inevitable..... the energy transition, wherever it has moved fastest, has been driven by deliberate policy choices: feed in tariffs, green procurement mandates, strategic investment in domestic manufacturing. The same logic applies at the geopolitical level.

Accelerating the transition is, in part, a peace project. Nations that generate their own energy through sun and wind are nations that are less exposed to the price shocks and supply disruptions that the petro-states use as leverage. They are nations with less reason (and ability) to fight over extraction rights, pipelines, and shipping lanes.

So, the current crisis in the Middle East offers us different possibilities and futures.

One possible future is that the political pressures of the moment, rising fuel bills, supply anxiety, the drumbeat of emergency, drive governments back toward fossil fuel investment, locking in at least another decade of dependency. We can already sense that the politicians who favour this are scrambling to use the crisis to justify new oil licenses. They are using this as an opportunity to use the emotion of the situation to side line the clear and logical case for a future based on renewables.

Another possible future is to use this as a moment of pivot and learn from the nations who have already moved furthest (and fastest) toward domestic clean energy based previous systemic shocks. Nations like [Pakistan](#) who, recognising they had little geopolitical leverage, and therefore reliable access to energy following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, chose to respond with a massive renewables programme that has literally transformed the country's energy capabilities. And they have done it in four years. There are challenges of course as the embedded article looks at both the positives and the challenges. However, Pakistan is undoubtedly a lesson in what can be achieved with a different mindset and beliefs. And that is a lesson is available to anyone willing to take it.

The case for renewable energy has always been made primarily in the language of climate science, and rightly so. But it is also a case about war and peace, about the structure of global power, and about who benefits from a world that remains addicted to oil. The fossil fuel industry and the wars it sustains are, at their core, a tax; a tax on the atmosphere, on the treasury and public money, and on the decades that we do not have time to waste.

The question is not whether we can afford the transition - we can. It is whether we can afford to keep being reminded why we need it!

Reflections and Actions you can take Now!

Fossil fuels are structurally linked to conflict and instability

Action: Start naming this connection in conversations (e.g. “energy choices are also about peace and conflict”).

War carries a largely invisible but massive climate cost

Action: When discussing climate issues, ask: “What are the hidden impacts here?” and bring that into conversations.

Short-term energy security repeatedly overrides long-term climate goals

Action: Make one conscious choice each week that prioritises long-term impact over short-term convenience.

Energy dependence shapes political decisions more than stated climate intent

Action: Reduce your own dependency where possible (e.g. switch to renewable energy, reduce usage, support local initiatives).

The transition to renewables is as much about peace and resilience as climate

Action: Reframe climate conversations to emphasise energy independence, stability, and resilience.

John Frost
C5 Leadership
March 2026