

WFGA Newsletter August 2026

Contents.

Events.

Tuesday August 4th 7.30-9pm. [Wyre Forest XR group](#)

Tuesday August 11th and 25th. [Wyre Forest Climate Choir](#) not happening in August

Sunday 16th August, 10am. [Gentle Cycle Ride](#).

Tuesday August 18th 7.30-9pm. [Wyre Forest XR group](#)

River Festival Events.

Tuesday 4th August [Bat Walk](#) .

Thursday 6th August 11.30 am [Family litter pick](#) and picnic.

Saturday 15th August Is A River Alive? [Official photographic exhibition](#)

Tuesday 18th August 11.00 – 1.00. [Kids Poetry](#) In Rivers Creative Writing.

Thursday 20th August [Unlocking The Severn](#).

Friday 21st August [Severn River Trust](#) Family Workshop.

Saturday 22nd August [Children's Creative River Painting and Block Printing](#).

Sunday 23rd August [Water Testing](#) Demonstration

Saturday 30th August [Arty Party](#). *

Saturday 12th September, 10.0 – 1.0 Make a [Rustic Charcuterie Board](#)

Thursday 15th October, 2.0 pm, [Natalie Bennett](#): Change, Climate and the Future of Britain.

Worcestershire [gentle cycling club](#)

[Communities Against River Pollution](#) - Part-time work opportunity

[Haye Farm](#) – Would you like to be part of it's future?

Help Protect [Burlish Meadows](#)

Newsletter.

Tuesday August 4th 7.30-9pm. Wyre Forest XR group meeting at Quaker Meeting House Lower Park Bewdley DY12 2DP.

Can we influence the insurance industry to halt the doom loop of insuring fossil fuel expansion which will lead to whole regions becoming uninsurable?

Just turn up or contact Dave on 0747 1207181.

Tuesday August 11th and 25th. We will NOT be holding our usual **Wyre Forest Climate Choir** rehearsal at Offmore Church Hall Gray Close Kidderminster DY10 3YE during August. In tandem with the national Climate Choir movement we shall be having a break. Hope to see you in September. In the meantime contact Hilary at hilarymueller@hotmail.com

Sunday 16th August, 10am. Gentle Cycle Ride. Meet at the Watermill pub, Kidderminster. Ride Kidderminster to Stourport along the canal and back, with a refreshment stop. *See below.*

Tuesday August 18th 7.30-9pm. Wyre Forest XR group meeting at Quaker Meeting House Lower Park Bewdley DY12 2DP.

XR is planning another visit to the seat of power in London, on 12th -14th September. Will Andy Burnham have highlighted climate change and biodiversity loss as the threat to national security that the Joint Intelligence Committee says it is?

Just turn up or contact Dave on 0747 1207181.

Bewdley River Festival events see below. **Bookable events marked ***:

Tuesday 4th August Bat Walk. Start at Bewdley Leisure Centre, Stourport Road (parking available) Start 8.30pm end c.10.30pm . A fascinating twilight walk to see our various bat species.

No unaccompanied children (under 16) £5.00 **To Book see below ***

Thursday 6th August 11.30 am St Anne's Church, Bewdley Family litter pick and picnic. Help in keeping our riverside free of harmful litter. Tea, coffee and cake provided. Free.

Saturday 15th August 10.30 for an 11.00am start: Is A River Alive? Official photographic exhibition opening and awards. Bewdley Brewery. From the 16th onwards many of the photographs will be on display throughout Bewdley's shops and cafes and will also be on the CARP website.

Tuesday 18th August 11.00 – 1.00. Kids Poetry In Rivers Creative Writing. A workshop for children 8 plus (with adult). Quaker meeting House. £5.00 **To Book see below ***

Thursday 20th August Unlocking The Severn. 7.30-8.30pm .A fascinating presentation looking at what can be seen passing the underwater window at Digliss .Bewdley Baptist Church £5.00

Friday 21st August Severn River Trust Family Workshop. Two river orientated activities 10.00-12.00. And 1.00- 3. 00pm Bewdley Rowing Club. – 3.00. Free events.

Saturday 22nd August 11.00 – 3.00pm Children's Creative River Painting and Block Printing. A creative, fun event. Jubilee Gardens.. £5.00

Sunday 23rd August Water Testing Demonstration (Severnside North) using a remote controlled boat/surfboard.. Free.

Saturday 30th August Arty Party. Late afternoon to 11pm. An afternoon and evening of music and art. BYO picnic and drink. Near Kidderminster. Suggested £10.00. **To Book see below ***

*** For more information and tickets for events marked ***

contact severncarp123@gmail.com or visit severncarp.org.uk

Future Dates for your diary.

Saturday 12th September, 10.0 – 1.0 Make a Rustic Charcuterie Board at St Georges Farm. See Wyre Community Land Trust website for details. www.wyreclt.org.uk

Continued.

Thursday 15th October, 2.0 pm, St Georges Hall Bewdley
Natalie Bennett: Change, Climate and the Future of Britain.
Bewdley Festival in association with Wyre Forest Green Alliance.

Join us for an afternoon with Natalie Bennett, one of the UK's most influential Green thinkers and campaigners. A former Leader of the Green Party of England and Wales (2012–2016) and now a Member of the House of Lords, Natalie has spent her career challenging conventional thinking on the environment, democracy, economics and social justice.

An accomplished journalist, author and public speaker, she brings insight, passion and practical ideas to some of the biggest questions facing society today. Her latest book, *Change Everything: How We Can Rethink, Repair and Rebuild Society*, explores how we can create a fairer, greener and more resilient future.



Whether you are interested in politics, climate change, community action or the future of our democracy, this promises to be a thought-provoking and engaging afternoon with one of Britain's most distinctive political voices.

Tickets 15 from [Bewdley Festival | WhatsOn](https://bewdleyfestival.org.uk/BewdleyArtsFestival.dll/WhatsOn?f=353980)
<https://bewdleyfestival.org.uk/BewdleyArtsFestival.dll/WhatsOn?f=353980>

Worcestershire gentle cycling club

Local, mainly off-road rides every 3rd Sunday of the month. See 'Worcestershire gentle cycle club' Facebook page for full details or email worcestershiregentlecycleclub@yahoo.com. All abilities welcome

Sunday 16th August, 10am. Meet at the Watermill pub, Kidderminster. Ride Kidderminster to Stourport along the canal and back, with a refreshment stop.

Communities Against River Pollution (CARP)

Part-time work opportunity

CARP is looking for a freelance part-time administrator to work with the CARP Steering Group. The start date is 5 October 2026 and we are offering 57 weeks of one day a week plus 6 weeks unpaid leave (end date negotiable and subject to funding).

CARP is a citizen science and campaigning project of Transition Bewdley. It was formed in June 2022 and currently comprises 135 supporters. Its overarching aim is to re-establish a clean ecologically healthy, vibrant River Severn for all to enjoy. CARP has a high profile within the local community and has organised this year's Bewdley River Festival with the aim of raising awareness about the rights of rivers.

Please email severncarp123@gmail.com to express interest and for further information. Deadline for applications is 24th August 2026

Haye Farm

Haye Farm – Would you like to be part of it's future?

Next year will be the 70th anniversary of my parents buying Haye Farm. Over the years the farm's been transformed from its run-down state to the vibrant, diverse property we see today. I've spent time reflecting on this journey and wondering what the next 70 years will have in store.

I'd like there to be an ongoing legacy giving real purpose to what's gone before and

securing the farms future. We've always strived to live lightly on the land, work with and alongside nature and produce healthy wholesome food.

We sell all our produce directly off the farm or to local outlets. Connecting and building strong relationships with our local community is of paramount importance. Not only because we want to be selling more of our produce to you but because there's never been a time when having access to local, sustainable food has been more important.

We will strive to continue being a valuable resource available to the local community. Not just producing healthy local food but allowing access to the land for new entrants, a space for people to reconnect with nature, to gain new skills and importantly to be part of a vibrant community.

I want Haye Farm to be a community farm available for all. To this end I'm exploring options for the farm to be placed into a trust securing it for future generations.

There's much work still to be done but hopefully with all your help the future is looking bright for Haye Farm.

If you would like to connect with Haye Farm we'd love to hear from you. All ideas and suggestions are welcome as we try to engage with our community. Register your support, sign up to our quarterly newsletter, buy our produce or checkout our website for more information.

www.haye-farm.co.uk hayefarmenquiries@outlook.com 07732 489195

Help Protect Burlish Meadows

Many of you will be aware that Wyre Forest District Council has agreed in principle to sell a large section of the Burlish Meadows Conservation Area to Kidderminster Harriers Football Club. The proposal would see the creation of new football pitches (including artificial ones) and associated facilities on what is currently rare acid grassland.

For many people, the primary concern is the impact on wildlife. Burlish Meadows was created in part to protect the adjacent Burlish Top Nature Reserve and provides valuable habitat for a wide range of species, as well as an important buffer between people and the sensitive nature reserve.

Friends of Burlish Meadows has been formed by local residents who believe that this public land and valuable wildlife asset should not be turned over to developers. The Council has not yet demonstrated why this particular site is the right place for the proposed development, whether all realistic alternatives have been properly explored, or why rare habitat should be sacrificed to meet the Harriers' demand for additional football facilities. The Worcestershire Wildlife Trust is also strongly opposed to the decision.

Although Cabinet has agreed the principle of the sale, this is not the final decision. There will be several planning and consultation hurdles for them to overcome. At the time of writing, a statutory consultation has begun regarding the decision to dispose of the site. This will provide an opportunity for members of the public to submit formal objections, which the Council is legally required to consider before making a final decision.

Friends of Burlish Meadows is currently:

- ☐ bringing together local residents and organisations who care about Burlish Meadows;
- ☐ gathering evidence about the ecological, recreational and community value of the site;
- ☐ engaging with local councillors and decision-makers;
- ☐ providing information to help people submit informed and individual objections.

If you value Burlish Meadows, please consider becoming involved. This will not be won on social media. You can help by:

- ☐ Submitting formal objections through the relevant official consultation

exercises

- ☐ Lobbying your district councillors
- ☐ Providing professional support to the campaign (e.g. legal, ecological, sporting)

Matt Terry. Friends of Burlish Meadows Steering Committee.

Statement from Worcestershire Wildlife Trust.

The Trust is horrified at the proposed sale and destruction of rare habitat.

The county's leading nature conservation charity is urging Wyre Forest District Council (WFDC) to reconsider the proposed sale of a fifth of Burlish Meadows.

Burlish Meadows Conservation Area is part of the largest connected block of heath and acid grassland for nature and people in Worcestershire. Worcestershire Wildlife Trust worked extensively with WFDC, through Natural Networks, to create a wildlife-rich habitat across the 40 hectare former golf course, which connects to both WFDC and Trust nature reserves.

At a meeting of WFDC on Thursday 9th July, Councillors agreed in principle to sell eight hectares to Kidderminster Harriers Football Club, which represents just over a fifth of Burlish Country Park, one of the rarest habitats in Worcestershire. The area would be used for artificial training pitches.

The Trust is urging Councillors to change their plans. Burlish Meadows should not be for sale.

Mike Perry, chief executive officer of the Trust, explained “Burlish Meadows is a really important green lung for both people and wildlife.

“Heathland and acid grassland are incredibly rare - we’ve lost over 90% of Worcestershire’s heathland – so the destruction of a fifth of this land would be a huge loss for the wildlife that needs this kind of habitat but would also remove a large part of green space for people too.

“When Burlish Meadows Conservation area was formed, it was to provide an area for wildlife as well as for an accessible place for local people to use. This has helped to reduce visitor pressure on some of the more sensitive areas of this block of land.

“We’re in the midst of a biodiversity crisis, the county’s Local Nature Recovery Strategy has just been launched. One in six species in the UK is at risk of extinction and the value to people's physical and mental health of accessing nature-rich green spaces where they live and work is increasingly well understood. This proposal needs to be reconsidered.

“Burlish Meadows should not be for sale at all. Kidderminster Harriers Football Club play an important role in the local community but this is the wrong place for such a development.”

Burlish Meadows Conservation Area, formed in 2018, is part of a block of land managed as nature reserves between Kidderminster, Stourport and Bewdley. Much of the land is owned and managed by Wyre Forest District Council and these areas adjoin land owned by Worcestershire Wildlife Trust.

The removal of a fifth of this connected habitat will not only destroy important habitat but place extra pressure on what’s left.

Burlish Meadows should not be for sale at all.

The land is home to plants and animals found only within acid, sandy habitats like the ones on the golf course. Losing even a small bit of this rare habitat would be a tragedy, especially given the

hard work and money put into the site by Wyre Forest District Council and partners like Worcestershire Wildlife Trust and Worcestershire County Council.

Wyre Forest District Council will now seek the views of the public on the disposal of this public green space and wildlife haven. The Trust is urging people in the Wyre Forest to both write to their local councillors and respond to the formal consultation, which will run between 17th July and 14th August, to let their views be known on the proposal.

Residents can find details of their local councillors at <https://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/your-council/councillors-committees-and-meetings/your-district-councillor/>

Mike Perry. Chief Executive Officer WWT

Your response to the consultation can be sent to jamie.sloan@wyreforestdc.gov.uk

From Wyre Forest Green Alliance.

"This area has been restored by WFDC with volunteers over the last 8 years to become an important acidic grassland that is home to a number of rare and threatened species, and also cherished by hundreds of visitors to the area. It is an important part of the assemblage of adjoining nature reserves including Devil's Spittleful and Dropping Wells Farm creating a significant area of rare acid grassland linking Stourport, Bewdley and Kidderminster providing connectivity to migrating species and other benefits to nature and green spaces, and improves physical and mental well-being for residents and visitors.

Friends of Burlish Meadows support Kidderminster Harriers with their objective to grow and encourage youth football, but feel that Burlish Meadows should be protected and not sold, with the Harriers looking elsewhere for their proposed artificial training pitches.

Many of our member organisations object to this 'land disposal' by WFDC. Please encourage your members to object, too.

"To object, please email, with your reasons, to jamie.sloan@wyreforestdc.gov.uk by 14th August. Also email your local councillors, Parish, Town, District and County, and MP urging them to oppose this sale and express your concerns.