

WFGA Newsletter February 2026

Monday 2nd February 8.0 pm [Green Drinks at Bewdley Rowing Club](#). “Dispelling the myths and restoring sanity to an increasingly crazy and unhealthy world!”.

Tuesday February 3rd 7.30-9pm. [Wyre Forest XR group](#) meeting

Thursday 5th February 2026 10am – 3pm. [Wildlife recording volunteers](#) at Bishops Wood

Saturday 7th February 2026 10am – 2pm [Conservation Volunteers](#) at Bishops Wood Centre.

Saturday 7th February 2026 10am – 1pm. [Kidderminster Repair Café](#)

Tuesday February 10th 7.30-9pm. [Wyre Forest Climate Choir](#)

Saturday 14th February 10.0 – 2.0 [Greener Energy Fair at St Georges Hall Bewdley](#).

Tuesday February 17th 7.30-9pm. [Wyre Forest XR group](#) meeting

Saturday 21st February. 10.0 – 1.0 [Bewdley Repair Café](#) at St. Georges Hall.

Tuesday February 24th 7.30-9pm. [Climate Choir](#) meeting and rehearsal

[Greener Energy Fair Help needed](#)

Join The [Signs of Spring](#) 2026

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Monday 2nd February 8.0 pm Green Drinks at Bewdley Rowing Club. “Dispelling the myths and restoring sanity to an increasingly crazy and unhealthy world!”.

In January our discussion started with food, food waste and the vulnerability of food systems. As is the nature of these sessions, we eventually moved on to the difficulties of countering the misinformation spread by commercial interests, conspiracy theorists and perhaps most significantly by autocratic governments intent on increasing their influence and suppressing dissent in their own countries. You know who I mean! How can we as individuals work together to counter this.

Tuesday February 3rd 7.30-9pm. Wyre Forest XR group meeting at Quaker Meeting House Lower Park Bewdley DY12 2DP.

A recent Government report shows how environmental degradation can disrupt food, water, health and supply chains, and trigger wider geopolitical instability. Join us to discuss how we should respond. Just turn up or contact Dave on 0747 1207181.

Thursday 5th February 2026 10am – 3pm. Wildlife recording volunteers at Bishops Wood Centre. Teas/coffee and biscuits provided. All you need is an interest in nature, a keen eye and some sturdy shoes. For all abilities. Please email volunteers.bw@field-studies-council.org to confirm your place or if you have any questions. – Meet first Thursday of each month.

Saturday 7th February 2026 10am – 2pm Conservation Volunteers at Bishops Wood Centre. Teas/Coffee and Biscuits provided. Suitable for all abilities. This month we are coppicing Hazel. A lovely woodland management skill with a job for everyone. 10am – 2pm Please book online here: <https://www.field-studies-council.org/volunteer-days/> – Meet first Saturday of each Month*

Saturday 7th February 2026 10am – 1pm. Kidderminster Repair Café. Youth House, Bromsgrove Street. for sewing, sharpening, electrical, tech repairs, mechanical and all sorts of other repairs. Donations only, refreshments available. Items should be clean and not contain fuel.

Tuesday February 10th 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

Saturday 14th February 10.0 – 2.0 Greener Energy Fair at St Georges Hall Bewdley. Save Energy Save Money! Free entry.

Come along to find out more about how you can save energy in your home, from simple inexpensive methods through to more costly installations such as heat pumps and solar panels. It is not all about the money of course. More importantly it is about doing our bit to reduce carbon emissions. There will be displays, stalls and short talks on everything from grants for refurbishing energy inefficient homes to using an e-bike to reduce your car mileage, flight free holidays to District heating schemes. Talk to people who have their own lived experiences of wood-burning stoves, electric vehicles, solar panels, battery storage and heat-pumps. See the advert in this edition of The Bewdley Bridge.

Tuesday February 17th 7.30-9pm. Wyre Forest XR group meeting at Quaker Meeting House Lower Park Bewdley DY12 2DP.
Join our friendly and active local group. Could you be a "Planet Medic"? Just turn up or contact Dave on 0747 1207181.

Saturday 21st February. 10.0 – 1.0 Bewdley Repair Café at St. Georges Hall.

Repairing items rather than throwing them away is of course another way of reducing our carbon footprint and conserving the resources of our planet. Our Repair Café sessions are also very sociable occasions and our customers and volunteers seem to always enjoy a chat! As usual, no need to book (other than if you are bringing a bike for repair or safety checks etc). Just turn up with your blunt garden tools, torn garments, broken appliances etc. and our wonderful repairers will do their best to help you.

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Tackle the climate crisis through song. We sing locally and as part of the national Climate Choir movement. Contact Hilary at hilarymueller@hotmail.com

Greener Energy Fair

Help needed for Greener Energy Fair.

Balbir Currie is collecting items for renewable energy crafts for the family stall at the Greener Energy Fair. 14th February at St Georges Hall

- plastic bottle tops of all sorts including milk bottles
- ice-lolly sticks
- used paper cups (coffee cups etc.) washed.

If you are able to collect any of these from your own households and from friends and neighbours Please let Balbir know.

balbircurrie@gmail.com

Greener Energy Fair

Sat 14th Feb, 10am - 2pm

St George's Hall, Bewdley DY12 2EQ

Explore options on heating, solar, cars, energy supply, insulation, plus more!
Stalls, Expert advice, Short pop-up talks, Free entry.



10 minute talks

↓

10:30am – How to reduce wood-burner air pollution - Geo Meadows
11:00am – Flight-free travel - Janice Bell
11:30am – energy retrofits on two terraced houses - Nigel Lloyd
12:00pm – Bikes and E-Bikes, low carbon, healthy transport - Clive Prince
12:30pm – District heating from the River Severn - Peter Miller
1.00pm – Electric Vehicles. Q&A session with EV Owners - Keith Budden
1:30pm – DIY energy retrofit measures - Brian Harper



Organised by
Wyre Forest Green Alliance



www.wfgall.org.uk

Join Signs of Spring 2026

Help track the UK's earliest signs of spring. Launched by the Field Studies Council in partnership with the Royal Society of Biology, this nationwide survey asks you to record when you first spot 10 indicators of spring—such as snowdrops, daffodils, bumblebees, ladybirds, frog spawn, and even the first lawn cut. Every observation counts, whether you're in a city park or a remote corner of the UK. Anyone can take part and enjoy discovering more about nature while boosting their mood. It's a great reason to get outdoors and enjoy nature's awakening. Start spotting today: <https://www.field-studies-council.org/signs-of-spring/>

News from CARP

20 people attended CARP's River Watchers and Guardians meeting in December. Several have volunteered to become River Guardians, working in pairs to regularly monitor a section of the river, looking at outfalls and reporting pollution to CARP. all pollution data can be entered through a direct reporting system to the Environment Agency

Anyone who regularly walks, rows etc. along the river can become a River Watcher, looking for signs of pollution and reporting it to CARP.

Meetings with Severn Trent

We alerted Severn Trent to the lack of communication with Iresidents on Stourport Road when tankers were removing sewage from a cracked pipe in the river. They have noted and apologized - and will aim to communicate if this sort of situation occurs again.

CARP is in dialogue with STW about their maintenance work at Trimpey reservoir & their plans to redistribute the silt from the lagoon onto nearby fields. More information next month.

email us at severnarp123@gmail.com for more information about CARP

Wyre Forest Cycle Forum

Creating safer routes for local people

What Trumps Driving?

For reducing CO2 emissions – cycling does. Transport is the UK's number one source of carbon emissions. Unsurprisingly, moving a box on wheels weighing between one and two tonnes around with you, as well as yourself, uses a lot of energy. Bikes typically weigh around 98% to 99% less than a car: just 10 to 25kg. That's a lot less extra weight to have to shift around.

Perhaps surprisingly, using an electric bike typically emits even less CO2 than using a non-electric one. Humans are not brilliant at converting food into energy - but either way - using any bike is very likely to reduce your travel CO2 emissions by over 80% compared to using a car.

No need for a big investment - cycling is an extremely low-cost way of quickly reducing your CO2 emissions. New and second-hand bikes with mudguards for everyday use are widely available. Maintenance and running costs are negligible compared with a car.

See us at the Greener Energy Fair in Bewdley on 14 February to find out more...

Wyre Forest Towns local cycling and walking infrastructure plan (LCWIP)

This local plan for Bewdley, Stourport-on-Severn and Kidderminster is due to be published imminently. Wyre Forest Cycle Forum has campaigned for improved routes for cycling and responded in depth to the consultation which took place last year.

The priority in this process for cycling has been on identifying key local routes for cycling to school, to work and to Kidderminster train station for onward travel.

The detailed plan is due to be published early in 2026 on the Worcestershire County Council website - watch this space: [Wyre Forest Towns local cycling and walking infrastructure plan \(LCWIP\) | Worcestershire County Council](#)

Why not join us?

Wyre Forest Cycle Forum aims to help improve cycling infrastructure across Wyre Forest. To find out more email: info@wyreforestcycling.co.uk

Davos through the lens of Leadership

Davos - A Leadership Lens

A Critical Re-imagination of the World Economic Forum

“Davos is not a leadership forum. It is a status-preservation ritual for the global elite”

Each year, the world's political, corporate, and financial elite gather in the Swiss Alps to debate the future of the planet. The World Economic Forum (WEF) presents itself as a place of global leadership, collaboration, and bold solutions.

However, every year Davos as the WEF has come to be known, consistently reveals a profound leadership deficit.

So, what if we looked at Davos not through the lens of economics or geopolitics — but through the lens of leadership?

It would be easy to blame powerful individuals, leaders who show little if any care for the World and its people. This article however is deliberately not a critique of individual intent (tempting as that is), but of the leadership culture and behaviours the event embodies and normalises.



It offers a critique and a re-imagination of Davos and the WEF using five Leadership Lenses: Consciousness, Curiosity, Connection, Collaboration, and Compassion.

Consciousness - Awareness, presence, and seeing reality as it really is.

Leadership begins with deep awareness, of context, power, impact, and lived reality.

How Davos fails this lens

Davos operates in a symbolic bubble of privilege: private jets, luxury hotels, armed security, closed rooms, while discussing poverty, climate collapse, and social fracture

This physical and social separation from everyday reality signals a lack of situational consciousness about how leadership optics land with the public.

The tone is one of managed optimism and elite reassurance, not sober reckoning with the scale and urgency of global crises.

There is little visible acknowledgement that many of the actors in the room benefit directly from the systems now causing harm

Davos demonstrates institutional unconsciousness. It talks about the world as an abstraction rather than inhabiting the reality most people are living in.

Curiosity - Openness, inquiry, and willingness to challenge assumptions.

Leadership is about asking uncomfortable questions and being willing to outgrow old mental models.

How Davos fails this lens

- Conversations largely assume that the current economic paradigm is fixed, and that crises can be solved through marginal reforms, innovation, or better governance.
- There is limited genuine inquiry into
 - Whether perpetual growth is compatible with planetary limit
 - Whether extreme wealth concentration is morally or socially sustainable
 - Whether current power structures should even continue to exist
- Radical alternatives (de-growth, post-capitalist economics, reparative justice, democratic ownership) are consistently marginalised and tokenised.

Davos exhibits closed curiosity, curiosity constrained to what is politically and economically convenient.

Connection - A shared purpose, and relational trust.

Leadership is about aligning people around a shared moral purpose and a lived mutuality.

How Davos fails this lens:

Davos creates connection among elites, not between elites and society.

Those most affected by climate breakdown, conflict, or exploitation are rarely present as equal partners.

Davos feels transactional rather than relational and based on networking, deal-making, reputation-laundering and soft power choreography (witness the wonderful speeches full of empty promises)

In Davos the dominant narrative is “we are all in this together,” while the lived reality is radically unequal exposure to risk and harm. Davos cultivates in-group connection while deepening out-(of)-group disconnection.

“Leadership is not just sentiment, it is the willingness to change systems that cause suffering.”

Collaboration - Co-creation, shared power, and inclusive problem-solving

Leadership is about designing solutions with those affected, not for them.

How Davos fails this lens:

Decision-making remains concentrated among governments, multinationals, financial institutions and tech platforms.

Civil society, indigenous leaders, frontline communities, and youth activists are largely under-represented, side-lined or at best symbolically included without real power.

Outputs are vague and there are lots of “Commitments,” “Pledges,” “Frameworks,” and “Initiatives;” most with weak accountability or democratic oversight.

So inevitably, Davos performs collaboration theatrically, while preserving hierarchical control.

Compassion - *Care, justice, and moral courage in the face of harm.*

Leadership is not just sentiment, it is the willingness to change systems that cause suffering.

How Davos fails this lens

The forum expresses concern about inequality, climate suffering, and conflict, and yet it avoids redistributive or structurally disruptive solutions. There is no serious commitment to wealth taxes, debt cancellation, binding climate reparations, corporate accountability regimes.

And as a result, human suffering is discussed as a risk to stability, not as a moral emergency.

At best, Davos shows performative compassion; empathy without sacrifice.

So, through a Leadership Lens, Davos Represents:

- ✗ **Low Consciousness**; it is detached from lived global reality
- ✗ **Constrained Curiosity**; it is unwilling to question foundational assumptions
- ✗ **Exclusive Connection**; it is elite bonding without justice
- ✗ **Faux Collaboration**; it is participation without power-sharing
- ✗ **Shallow Compassion**; it is concern without system change

It is surely arguable therefore that ***Davos is not a leadership forum. It is a status-preservation ritual for the global elite.***

Re-imagining the World Economic Forum

So, here are some thoughts and challenging ideas for re-imagining the World Economic Forum through these same leadership lenses..... let's play with the idea of ***what if....***

Consciousness — What if....

- ✓ The WEF was held in frontline communities, not alpine luxury resorts
- ✓ It began with truth-telling about power, harm, and responsibility

Curiosity — What if....

- ✓ The WEF asked which systems must end, not just be improved?
- ✓ It invited ideas of post-growth, reparative, and de-colonial economics into the centre rather than marginalising them

Connection — What if....

- ✓ The WEF centred on those most affected by global crises
- ✓ It built a shared moral purpose, not reputational alignment

Collaboration — What if....

- ✓ The WEF gave decision power to citizens' assemblies, youth, and civil society
- ✓ It made commitments legally binding with publicly accountability
- ✓ **Compassion — What if....**
- ✓ The WEF enacted redistributive policies, not just pledges
- ✓ It treated suffering as a global emergency, and not a market failure

So here's the thing.... none of these ideas and challenges are impossible to achieve. The fact that they don't happen, is because they are not valued within the current mindset of the WEF and the leaders who attend it.

The WEF at Davos fails because it is built on a leadership model that values and protects comfort, power, and legitimacy over truth, justice, and transformation. While this persists we will never see a new model of leadership at Davos, merely an annual replay of the last gasps of the old one.

“Until Davos is willing to trade comfort for consciousness, power for participation, and legitimacy for justice, it will remain what it is today: not a forum for global leadership, but a carefully choreographed ritual that preserves the very systems it claims to reform.”

John Frost

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