

Wyre Forest Green Alliance Newsletter January 2026

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Dates.

Saturday January 3rd. Kidderminster Repair Café at the Youth House Bromsgrove Street Kidderminster 10am till 1pm. 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.

Monday January 5th. Green Drinks. 8.0- 10.0 pm Bewdley Rowing Club.

Are our Food Systems in Crisis? We will discuss [this article](#) along with positive news stories about food. Bring along your own tales of past seasonal food disasters, use of leftovers and childhood memories. All welcome.

Saturday 17th January. Bewdley Repair Café. 10.0 – 1.0. St. Georges Hall, Bewdley. Broken your Christmas presents already? Kitchen appliances worn out after preparing all those festive meals? Did your fairy-lights stop working? Don't pack them away and forget them till next Christmas! Bring them along to Bewdley Repair Café for our friendly and clever repairers to see if they can fix them. Do you want to shed those Yule-tide extra pounds? Get your bike out of the shed, dust it off and bring it along for our lovely bike experts to check.

Tuesday 20th January. "Make It Count: Sustainability Comms Workshop". 7.30 pm. St Georges Hall, Bewdley. How to have effective conversations about topics that are close to your heart. This will be helpful to anyone who wants to communicate in a positive way about the climate emergency, electric vehicles, plant-based diets, refugees etc. with others who may have different views. Explore how to dispel those myths and falsehoods that abound. To book <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/make-it-count-sustainability-comms-workshop-tickets-1977602116165>

Some advance dates for your diaries.

Saturday 14th February. 10.0 - 2.0 Greener Energy Fair. St Georges Hall, Bewdley. Love saving money, love your planet! Treat your loved one to a fascinating day out. Programme of Informative talks and useful stalls.

Saturday 14th March. 10.0 - 2.0 Wildlife and Countryside Fair. Severns Club, Stourport. Stalls, displays and talks. Would your organisation like a stall? Good opportunity to promote your organisation and recruit volunteers to help with your work. Let me know if you would like to reserve a table.

30th May – 28th June. SustFest 2026

Our 2026 Calendar is now open for registration of events.

<https://www.sustfestwyreforest.org/host-an-event.html>

Nature Recovery

The publication of the [West Midlands Local Nature Recovery Strategy \(LNRS\)](#) marks a major step forward in how we protect and enhance nature across our region. As required by the Environment Act 2021, the LNRS provides a clear, evidence-led map of where nature restoration can deliver the greatest benefits — not only for biodiversity, but also for our communities, health, and climate resilience. It provides a strategic plan for nature recovery, to go above and beyond small and isolated projects. With 48 strategies covering England, the LNRS gives local authorities, landowners, and partners the confidence to target action where it will have the biggest impact. Crucially, the work does not stop here. Delivery, governance, and monitoring over the coming years will turn strategy into meaningful change on the ground. Worcestershire also has its own draft [Nature Recovery Strategy](#)

Some good news. Seven wins for Climate and Nature in 2025

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/future/article/20251212-seven-quiet-wins-for-climate-and-nature-in-2025>

News from CARP

CARP campaign for rights for the River Severn

Over 12 local authorities have now granted rivers rights by introducing charters which will help protect them. Hereford Council (our neighbour) has just agreed to these Rights for The Wye.

These charters grant the river the right:

To flow (to maintain its natural course and seasonal rhythms without obstructions,)

to biodiversity, to be free from pollution, to be supported by a healthy catchment, to regenerate to an ecologically healthy state, to be represented (and have these intrinsic rights recognised.)

CARP fully supports this approach and needs local people's help in furthering this aim. Please send your responses to us so that we can evidence the strength of feeling.

In our new and exciting River Festival 2026, which aims to reconnect people to the river through arts activities, we will be focusing on this and other issues and gathering more responses. Please contact us at: severncarp123@gmail.com

A snippet from Greenpeace. Thanks to Roger Meade for sharing this.

Q: *"Is it always worthwhile emailing MPs even when they are committed Tories, totally opposed or disinterested in green issues? (such is mine, sadly)"*

A: "Absolutely! MPs track their constituents' priorities, even if they disagree.

This matters now more than ever. In the current political climate, the far right are working to undermine public and political consensus on the need for climate action. Consensus that the environmental movement has spent decades building – thanks to supporters like you. Alongside this, some politicians are trying to quietly roll back their own climate commitments.

It is crucial that MPs hear that people still care. Surveys show 89% of the UK want stronger climate action, but MPs say they aren't hearing this from constituents." – **Danni Paffard**, Deputy Logistics Director.

It builds on the mantra 'let them know you care', something that developed within the work on rivers. It is still rather depressing to see all those local Wildlife Trust members who do a lot of tutting when they see an image of plastic pollution in the sea, but are not prepared to raise their voices in even the mildest form of dissent.

Roger Meade

Wyre Forest Cycle Forum - Creating safer routes for local people

Why do we need a Cycle Forum?

Less experienced cyclists, less confident cyclists and children all need well-designed routes if they are to cycle regularly. Many people simply don't want to cycle at all if routes they need to use are incomplete, with dangerous-to-cross gaps in them.

The latest Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) is due to be published on the Worcestershire County Council website early in 2026.

In Wyre Forest and Worcestershire there have been many plans and strategies over the years looking to improve cycling and walking routes. The reality today is that many routes that could work for bikes are still poor, incomplete or both.

Helping to make a difference for cycling locally

Wyre Forest Cycle Forum exists to help make sure that active travel plans will actually work in practice and do get turned into usable routes that people can safely use in real life.

It does not seem unreasonable for people to want to feel safe when cycling near their home, work, school, shops, sports and leisure activities. Safe, continuous 'active travel' routes common in Europe and some places in the UK allow people to use bikes as part of their normal daily life. We work with local councils and national cycling and active travel organisations to help raise the bar here.

Fancy a winter leisure ride but stuck for ideas?

See our website www.wyreforestcycling.co.uk which has some local cycling routes designed for leisurely bike rides and some car-free routes aimed at children who are just starting to ride a bike.

Why not join us in 2026?

The next Wyre Forest Cycle Forum meeting is on Wednesday 28th January 2026, 2pm, at Wyre House, Finepoint Way DY11 7WF. To find out more just email: info@wyreforestcycling.co.uk

Re-imagining Leadership

Why Carbon Credits are the Wrong Approach to the Earth's Climate and Ecological Emergency

I was struck by a conversation I had with a friend recently. I have chosen not to go to his wedding in Barbados as it involved taking a flight; something I have not done since 2019 as one of the measures I am taking to reduce my own carbon emissions. His response, and he didn't hesitate, was to buy some carbon credits to offset my flight. A kind of job done situation from his perspective. But not from mine! I won't be going!

So, it got me thinking about carbon credits and leadership and how easy it was for my friend, himself a leader of a business, to default so easily to this solution.

Carbon credits are often presented as a pragmatic response to the climate and ecological emergency. Some organisations have flocked to them as the market for carbon credits has developed. And why wouldn't they? Carbon Credits promise flexibility, cost-effectiveness, and progress without disruption.

But this promise is precisely the problem.

At their core, carbon credits allow continued pollution and ecological damage in exchange for financial compensation elsewhere. Instead of cutting emissions at source, organisations are invited to offset harm. This is a logic that belongs to a world of gradual change, not to a one facing climate and ecological breakdown.

The climate and ecological crisis is driven by absolute emissions, not net accounting!

Every tonne of carbon burned adds to a destabilized atmosphere, regardless of what is claimed on a balance sheet. Worse still, offsets delay the deep structural changes we urgently need: phasing out fossil fuels, redesigning transport and food systems, and reducing overall demand.

Many carbon credits do not represent real or permanent reductions. Forests burn. Soils release carbon. Projects often would have happened anyway. Meanwhile, fossil carbon, once released, remains in the atmosphere for centuries. Treating carbon credits as the equivalent of not emitting the carbon in the first place is a dangerous fiction born out of complacency, fear of lost profits and ultimately, greed.

Carbon markets also reduce living ecosystems to a single number. Biodiversity, water, soil health, and community relationships are sidelined in favour of "tonnes of CO₂." In practice, this encourages monoculture plantations, land grabs, and the displacement of Indigenous and local communities; So, perhaps the moral message carbon credits send is that those with enough money can continue to pollute. I think that we might reasonably call that "carbon colonialism."

The climate and ecological crises are not accounting problems. They are limits problems. They demand honesty, restraint, and transformation not creative bookkeeping. Real climate leadership means cutting emissions fast, restoring nature for its own sake, and accepting that some forms of consumption and profit must end.

Carbon credits offer comfort and a convenient detachment from reality. However, deep change never comes from comfort and convenience. It comes from creating tension with the present situation, a tension which is then a catalyst for change.

Leadership in the climate and ecological emergency demands courage, clarity, and moral resolve. The call to action is simple, but not easy: stop outsourcing responsibility and start leading from the front. That means committing to absolute emissions reductions, ending reliance on carbon credits as a substitute for change, and making decisions that align with a sustainable future - even when this creates discomfort or challenges existing business models. Leadership at this time means working within planetary limits, investing in genuine transition, and restoring nature without using carbon credits to claim permission to pollute elsewhere.

The task of leadership now is not to soften reality, but to face it and to invite others into the difficult, necessary work of transformation.

John Frost; C5 Leadership - Re-imagining Leadership. www.c5leadership.co.uk