

GreenFest 2025: A Huge Success in Inspiring a Greener Future in West Berkshire

West Berkshire Green Exchange is delighted to announce that GreenFest 2025, held on Saturday, 5 April 2025, was a resounding success. It brought together well over a thousand attendees at St Bartholomew's School in Newbury for a day of inspiration, education, and hands-on activities focused on sustainability and environmental action.

The festival, which ran from 10:30am to 3:30pm, welcomed people of all ages and interests, creating a vibrant and engaging atmosphere. GreenFest 2025 proved to be a really impactful event, showcasing the power of community-driven action for a greener future.

Mr Billy Drummond, Chair of West Berkshire Council, opened the event and said "I am thrilled to see so many of you gathered here today, united in our commitment to creating a greener, more sustainable future for our community and beyond."

Welcoming the public to GreenFest, Ken Neal, Chair of West Berkshire Green Exchange said "Our thanks also go to Dr David Fitter, Headteacher of St Bartholomew's School, and his staff for welcoming us in and allowing the use of these wonderful facilities. Thanks also go to the local Eco groups who have responded magnificently to our invitation to share their work."

Olivia Bailey, MP for Reading West and Mid Berkshire took part in the opening ceremony, toured the stalls, talks and activities and talked with local people and said "I would like to congratulate everyone involved in running Greenfest 2025. It was a brilliant day with lots of informative and fun stalls for the whole family. We have such special countryside and nature in Reading West and Mid Berkshire and we are lucky to have so many activists locally who work to conserve and restore it."

In the spirit of going green, people were encouraged to leave their cars at home, to come to GreenFest on public transport or by walking or cycling.

Highlights from GreenFest 2025

GreenFest 2025 offered something for everyone, with an incredible lineup of activities and events:

- **Interactive Experiences:** people enjoyed hands-on activities such as pedal-powered smoothie bikes and vegetable planting workshops.
- **Inspiring Talks:** Experts shared valuable insights on topics like sustainable farming, home energy solutions, and practical ways to combat climate change.
- **Workshops & Demos:** Guests participated in visible mending sessions, Mediterranean cooking demonstrations using low-energy techniques, and even drumming workshops.
- **Family Fun:** Families had a blast with bug hunts, mask-making stations, rock painting, and other creative activities for children.
- **Sustainable Food & Drink:** Local vendors provided delicious vegan treats and other low-carbon options that were a hit with attendees.
- **Live Music:** Kennet Radio kept spirits high with fantastic live music throughout the day.
- **West Berkshire Council** was out in force, showcasing services and initiatives supporting nature and climate. They brought a recycling display, a new electric bus and talked to people about sustainable travel and their innovative kerbside EV charging.
- And lots, LOTS more!

There were lots of activities on the stalls for children, one parent told us "My kids loved the bug hunt, and then we made a wonderful model grasshopper with AWOL 101 Arts and then we did a fantastic drumming workshop with XR Rhythms! They will sleep well tonight!"

The Greenfest 2025 award for the stall with the most sustainable and engaging outlook was judged by Professor Sir Brian Hoskins, Jackie Hoskins and Lara Lauder, was won jointly by two groups. Clean Cut is a St Bartholomew's School student club selling up-cycled glassware and resin based coasters, and Hungerford Food Community had cooking demos, pedal-your own-smoothie-bike and lots of local produce for sale. The £50 prize was sponsored by the West Berks Athena group of women entrepreneurs and executives.

Ruth Craigan who was visiting GreenFest with her husband said "It was great to realise how much we were doing already for nature and the environment, and we've come away with some fab easy ideas on how to reduce our carbon footprint a bit more. Some lovely recipes to try that use less meat for example. Talking people who actually own electric cars has helped us make up our minds that we should now get one - we hadn't realised how much money we could save!"

A Unified Effort for Positive Change

Dr Pat Glover, who is part of the organising committee, was asked what motivated her to get involved with GreenFest. She said "I'm worried about my children's future, and I'm also concerned that my lifestyle choices are unwittingly making that future even worse. The range of activities and information at GreenFest is brilliant for anyone wanting to explore being more sustainable, and it also celebrates all the fantastic work that's already happening in West Berkshire."

The event featured over 60 stalls run by local environmental organisations and businesses, all working together to promote sustainability.

"GreenFest 2025 was an incredible celebration of community spirit and the collective drive to create a more sustainable future," said Nikki Coome of West Berkshire Green Exchange. "Seeing so many people come together to learn, share ideas, and take action for the environment was truly inspiring."

"It was the financial support from Newbury Town Council's Climate Emergency Fund, from Greenham Parish Council, the Greenham Common Trust and lots of other sponsors that made this event possible - a huge thank you to them all." said Richard Marshall, Treasurer of the West Berkshire Green Exchange.

Looking Ahead

GreenFest 2025 has left attendees buzzing with ideas and motivation to take their next steps toward sustainable living. From small changes at home to larger community initiatives, the festival has sparked meaningful conversations and inspired action that will continue long after the event.

West Berkshire Green Exchange is a volunteer-led organisation dedicated to promoting sustainability and environmental awareness across the region through events like GreenFest. Together with local groups and change-makers, we aim to empower individuals and communities to take meaningful action for the planet. West Berkshire Green Exchange extends its heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers, stallholders, speakers, sponsors, and attendees who made GreenFest 2025 so impactful.

For more information about future events or how you can get involved with West Berkshire Green Exchange's initiatives, please visit our [home page](#).