

## Report from Kidderminster Vegan Fair 25<sup>th</sup> Nov 2018

Raising the profile of the GP and gaining new members and activists.

Wyre Forest Green Party (WFGP) working with Greens for Animal Protection (GAP) held a stall at Kidderminster Vegan Fair on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> Nov. The event was well attended and a good level of interest was given to the stall. Some local members and said they'd become more active locally whilst some were from further away, including neighbouring areas. A good amount of networking was done and a significant number of people said they'd be interested in becoming active in GAP.

Of the non-members said they would join the GP whilst others were interested in receiving the GAP newsletter.

Staff were keen to highlight recent climate change reports particularly the recent IPCC report warning we only have 12 years to reduce GHGs (<https://tinyurl.com/y733zf76> and <https://tinyurl.com/y8ehqmfl>)

This together with reports stating that livestock farming contributes up to 25% of GHG and thus climate change gives rise to serious consideration of shifting to a plant based diet which might include pulses and tree crops which would lock up carbon and provided food which can be stored without freezing.



Along with a wide range of leaflets from various animal charities we had GP leaflets on Young Greens, housing, health, environment etc and GAP's anti-badger cull leaflets were also on the stall and was well received prompting discussion re the vets report rejecting claims that the cull is effective...

<http://tinyurl.com/yda7zhga>

Young Greens leaflets and recipe books (Viva, Animal Aid, Peta) were well received and prompted useful discussion. There was also interest in the League Against Cruel Sports (LACS) campaigns with grouse shooting being one issue that people brought up.

We had a petition on the stall in support of wildlife

<http://tinyurl.com/yd4tcpnh> which also provided a column for signatories to receive the GAP newsletter.

- There were 47 signatories.
- 28 signed for the newsletter
- 10 people asked for us to contact them with details of WFGP meetings and events
- An estimated 12 people said they would join the GP with around 8 of these being in Wyre Forest but even if we get only 2 new members we feel it will have been worth it.
- Several WFGP members said they will now become more active.



Money was raised on the stall from sale of attractive recycled cloth shopping bags, which were produced and donated by a local WFGP member. These sold for £3 and £4 and sales more than covered the £25 price of the stall, resulting in a small profit for WFGP.

The stall was staffed by two local members along with two members of GAP



**Summary:**

This was clearly a good way to raise the profile of the Green Party and to get more activists and members for GAP and WFGP. It seems the new generation of vegans is very concerned about the environment and keen to become active in fighting for a better future.

For those unfamiliar with Vegan Fairs, they are becoming more popular and take place across the UK. Venues vary from small town and village halls to the very large ones held in Bristol, Brighton, Wolverhampton, Birmingham, Manchester etc. The larger ones are generally called festivals the most well-known of which is probably 'Vegfest'.

Typically, attractions include Hot & Cold food stalls. Vegan trade stalls, Therapy and beauty stalls, musicians, fitness, wellbeing and lifestyle coaches etc. All products produce etc is 100% vegan.

**GAP is willing to team up with any local or regional GP across the country that would like to try similar initiatives. Contact: [events@gap.greenparty.org.uk](mailto:events@gap.greenparty.org.uk)**

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