

Diary Dates

Tues 3 May 7.30pm

HFoE meeting. Recycling Unlimited Café, 151 Newland Avenue

Fri 13 May 7pm

Barn Dance Boulevard village hall

Sat 21 May

Hull Carnival, City Centre

Tues 7 June 7.30pm

HFoE meeting. Recycling Unlimited Café, 151 Newland Avenue

Sun 12 June 10-4pm

Organic farm open day, Hornsea

Wed 29 June 7.30pm

George Monbiot at Hull Truck

Sun 3 & Sun 10 July, 12 noon onward

Avenues Open Gardens

Tuesday 5 July 7.30pm

HFoE meeting. Recycling Unlimited Café, 151 Newland Avenue

Sat 16 July 8pm onwards

40 Years Celebration Party, at the Adelphi

Sat 23 July 1-4pm

Hessle Road Pram Race

Tues 2 August 7.30pm

HFoE meeting. Recycling Unlimited Café, 151 Newland Avenue

Tues 6 Sept 7.30pm

HFoE meeting. Recycling Unlimited Café, 151 Newland Avenue

September: Green Fair stall bookings open

Provisional date Sat 19 Nov

Hull Transition

Meet 2nd & 4th Monday of each month at The Eagle, Coltman Street, 7.30. Contact 07816 141169, email: lausannet@yahoo.co.uk

Beverley FoE

Meet 3rd Thursday each month at White Horse (Nellies) Beverley, 7.30.

Email: shan@voice-international.net

Hull FoE is 40 years young!

Friends of the Earth is celebrating 40 years of campaigning this year. We think Hull Friends of the Earth was also founded in 1971 or possibly early 1972. Are we the oldest Local FoE Group in continuous existence?

Chris Renn remembers joining Hull FoE in the summer of 1972, when the group was already up and running from an address in St George's Road. Philip Heselton remembers sending his subs to the same address at about the same time. We think this was the home of Keith Lowe. Was he the first Co-ordinator?

Chris himself was coordinator for two years from 1973 to 1975. He sends us a press cutting, undated, showing a group standing outside the Guildhall, some wearing gas masks, with placards protesting about pollution from Sculcoates power station. At that time we could muster a turn out of at least 12 adults and a baby. Judging by the worried look on the faces of councillors and Kevin McNamara MP, we were already a force to be reckoned with!

The campaigning style is very recognisably Friends of the Earth; the use of 'props', the combination of fun with a serious purpose, taking a well-argued case to the decision makers, and of course making sure the press are there. You could say the campaign was won when the power station was demolished about 20 years ago. We are now involved in the rather less controversial activity of planting wildflowers in the nearby cemetery.

Kathleen Boughen remembers that we were involved in National Bike Week as early as 1975. Badgering the Council for more and better cycle facilities was at the forefront of Hull FoE activities for much of the 1970s, 80s and 90s. For several years we got councillors and council officers out on their bikes to experience at first hand cycle tracks covered in broken glass and lanes that came to a sudden end, forcing the unwary out into traffic, and by helping to found a Hull Cycle Campaign we were instrumental in getting cycle provision into planning policies.

Do you have memories of Hull FoE?

They don't have to go back this far! We'd like to see as many of you as possible at the **Hull FoE 40th Anniversary Party On Saturday 16 July, 7.30pm onwards. At the Adelphi, De Grey Street Hull**

Continued on page 3

In this issue

<i>Diary Dates</i>	1
<i>Hull FoE 40 years young!</i>	1
<i>ECO Chit Chat</i>	2
<i>Coordinator's report</i>	3
<i>Networking Event: report</i>	3
<i>Biofuel targets are unethical</i>	4
<i>Footnote to the Budget</i>	4
<i>New Localism Bill</i>	5
<i>Transition Hull update</i>	5
<i>Wildlife Notes</i>	6
<i>Organic farm event</i>	6
<i>Planet before Profits</i>	6
<i>Home-grown Hornsea</i>	7
<i>Food Campaign update</i>	7
<i>Membership form & Contact info</i>	8

ECO CHIT CHAT

At the Hull FoE AGM on 5 April, Haris stood down as Chairperson. Thank you for keeping us in order over the years, Haris. We decided to take turns at the Chairmanship.

Hull FoE priorities for campaigning and activities for the coming year will be:



The Localism Bill (see Haris and Simon's articles) and keeping up our involvement in local planning and policy decisions; the Food Campaign (see page 7); Waste and



Lee-ann and David tell 'David Cameron' (Richard) to halve domestic waste at the Waste Day of Action on 19 March outside Recycling Unlimited

Recycling (what next now the WRG contract is gone?); our ongoing planting with David to increase local biodiversity; attracting new members and engaging with the activities at the University; and celebrating our 40 years!

Beverley FoE are focussing on the Energy CO2 campaign, getting East Riding Council

to commit to target reductions. They are also taking part in Beverley in Bloom and making sure it involves ordinary Beverley residents, not just big businesses.



Lots of activities are taking place over the spring and summer. Here are some dates you will want to note:

Sunday 1 May: 12:30 - 15:00, May Day at Pickering Road Community Orchard, Hull (turn down Cranberry Way and go to the allotments at the end). The apple blossom smells wonderful at the moment. Dance round the maypole. Bring a picnic. And sample the new composting toilet (every allotment should have one!) The event is free and open to all. For £2 a year membership, you'll be able to gather 2 kilos from the 26 varieties of apples in the autumn.

For more information contact Yvette: jolleyholley@hotmail.com or 01482 503577. Facebook event: www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=164167633634146 (If ECO reaches you too late, remember the event for next year.)

Friday 13 May: 7pm Transition Barn Dance at Boulevard Village Hall, near the fountain on Boulevard. All ages and abilities welcome, £3 plus small contributions to the food and drink.

Saturday 21 May: Hull Carnival; Hull Transition taking part.

Sunday 12 June: Open day at Densholme organic farm, Hornsea (see page 6).

Wednesday 29 June: 7.30pm. George Monbiot, Environmental writer, at Hull Truck Theatre, part of Humber Mouth.

Sunday 3 and Sunday 10 July: 12.00 onwards, Avenues Open Gardens. Hull FoE Stall at 170 Victoria Avenue, helpers wanted (ring Hilary 01482 445747 or just turn up).

Saturday 16 July: 8pm onwards Hull FoE **40 Years Young Party** at the Adelphi, De Grey St Hull. (See pages 1&2)

Saturday 23 July: 1-4pm Hessle Road Pram Race. Massey Street/St George's Road Playing fields. Helpers wanted on the Transition and Hull FoE stalls; ring Lausanne 01482 228637 or Hilary 01482 445747



Greenpeace Hull is meeting regularly on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Latest info from Richard—redmore@hotmail.com



Paul Hanson is looking for families who might be interested in joining with others to buy land for an Eco village near Hornsea. Further details from Paul (see Homegrown Hornsea, page 7).



With the weather we've been having lately, who needs to travel far for their holidays? City of Hull and Humber Environment Forum (CHEF) is promoting local green tourism and reminding us of the attractions available on our doorstep, accessible by public transport.

Burton Agnes Hall has lots to interest all ages from woodland walks to a maze and giant chess, and can be reached from Hull on the East Yorkshire 121 bus.

Moorsbus will take you out into the North York Moors with connections from Hull and other towns. Moorsbus Co-ordinators will make sure you know where to get your connections. Out in the countryside you don't even need to be at a bus stop to get picked up. Moorsbus has some vintage bus trips too. More information from www.northyorkmoors.org.uk/moorsbus or 01845 597000.



You successfully protected our forests, now protect your countryside and wildlife. The government says it wants to "free up business and society from the burden of excessive regulation". But included in the list of regulations under review are the UK Climate Change Act, National Parks Act, Clean Air Act and the Wildlife and Countryside Act. These aren't little-known laws that no one cares about. The Wildlife and Countryside Act protects wild birds, their nests and eggs, and makes sure that national parks and marine reserves are protected. The UK's Climate Change Act was a world first which helps make sure we reduce our emissions. See www.38degrees/don't-scrap-environment-laws.



East Yorkshire Botany Club have some interesting and informative walks lined up for the summer, including along the River Hull and Noddle Hill, as well as further afield. Lifts can be arranged. Contact Margaret Renn on 01482 444435. Meanwhile Brian Witty reminds us that, with Council Rights of Way budgets under threat, we need to tell our councils how much we value footpaths. (We have to be eternally vigilant about everything, it seems!) www.care2.com/go/z/e/AgEku/zlel/AdD0g



Transition need people to help build and plant raised beds on their Constable Street land: contact Lausanne on 01482 228637 or 07816141169.

Hilary Byers

Hull FoE in 2010

Hull coordinator's report

Membership in 2010 was 69 including eleven new members. This was on a par with the previous year. Unfortunately the figures do not reflect the number who actively take part in our campaigns or attend meetings; is this something we can do something about? Especially for those who enthusiastically attend one meeting and then don't come back.

Our main **local campaign** of the year involved the proposed 300MW biomass plant from DONG. This would have required nearly two million tons of imported wood feedstock to burn. After much discussion and research, Hull FoE sent a comprehensive objection. The proposal was subsequently withdrawn and we hope that our arguments had some part in this.

Members of the group have been involved in several of the **National FoE campaigns**. A highlight of this was Hilary and Lee-Ann attending the Beverley food festival dressed as cows to raise the profile of the problems associated with imported feed for livestock.

We are proud of the quality of our "ECO" **newsletter**. Many thanks to all who help compile and distribute this.

Regular events such as the Green Fair and tree planting continued to flourish due to the hard work of those involved and considerably raise Hull FoE's profile in the local community.

After years of campaigning against the proposed local **incinerator** we heard the WRG are pulling out of the contract with the local councils in the next couple of years and consequently the incinerator is ditched—for the time being at least. We can only hope that when the new contract is negotiated the proposal is not reignited and alternative waste treatments can be persuaded to be set up. I'm sure we'll play our part in this.

Sue Jolliffe

continued from page 1

Admission is free and everyone is welcome, new and old members, friends from other groups, and especially anyone new who might be wondering what we do. There'll be time to chat and catch up with old friends as well as music. Bring any photos, press cuttings etc and we'll put together a display. To send your recollections or for more info contact Hilary on 01482 445747 or hilary@amskaya.karoo.co.uk

NETWORKING

for Environmental and Social Justice—action plan agreed

Well publicised amongst the many interested local groups and individuals, this event, on 27 March at the Civic Hall in Cottingham, attracted lively and dedicated participants wanting to share, work together and exchange ideas, skills and stories.

- Professor Gary Craig provided a stimulating and challenging opening, outlining many of the obstacles and problems with which we are faced in today's world. He warned us of the dangers he perceived to lie within the Government's plans for the 'Big Society' which he sees as a smokescreen to obscure the effects of the unprecedented cuts. The word 'fair' has become degraded with overuse; to achieve 'fairness' involves participation and the need to know what we are talking about at all times and in all contexts. We need to concentrate on the equality of outcomes with a value framework as a basis for ethical trading in food, energy, water and economics. Are we concerned about the way goods are produced, he asked. Think globally as well as locally. Victories are possible and there are alternatives.
- The morning's networking session took the form of many of the participants talking for 'just a minute' (except that it was often more like two or three!) about their interest, project and current plans. These ranged through the Community Orchard, Sculcoates Cemetery, Marinet, CHEF, Friends of the Earth, Transition Network, the Green Party, Fair Trade, Greenpeace, Dragonfest, Beverley in Bloom, World Changing, the New Economics Forum, and the UNA. Just a small cross section of the lively environmental and social justice activities in this area. And

there are even more groups out there who couldn't come to this event.

- Simon Bowens of Leeds Friends of the Earth brought us up to date with national FoE's concerns about two Bills going through the House of Commons at present—the Energy Bill and the Localism Bill. What is clear is that neither of them are clear! But they are both a cause for great concern and we need to keep on our toes if we are to prevent planning and sustainable energy being taken over completely by vested interests.
- As with many such occasions a bring-and-share lunch produced a veritable feast which gave everyone the opportunity to talk and talk and talk. And the talk didn't stop there as the afternoon's networking took the form of a cross between speed dating and a whist drive with everyone moving round to talk with everyone else. Well almost!

In the end the big question, as always, is—What next? We did all feel that we needed to go on networking and sharing the workload presented to us increasingly by the climate, energy and financial crises and the many confusions which abound. We came up with an encompassing title for a co-ordinating group—definitely not a coalition! HEYUP. Hull and East Yorkshire United Project. That title may not last but it's a start. We need to come together again to see how we can work together and communicate without going through many individual websites, and duplicating and triplicating email lists.

There's work to be done and time is not on our side. We all felt that we can achieve a great deal more together than trying to do it all individually. Watch this space.

Diana Sandy

Biofuels targets are unethical

The legal requirement to put biofuels in petrol and diesel sold in the UK and Europe is unethical because their production violates human rights and damages the environment, a major new inquiry has concluded.

"Biofuels are one of the only renewable alternatives we have for transport fuels, but current policies and targets that encourage their uptake have backfired badly," said Professor Joyce Tait, at Edinburgh University, who chaired the 18-month inquiry by the independent Nuffield Council on Bioethics (NCB). "The rapid expansion of biofuels production in the developing world has led to problems such as deforestation and the displacement of indigenous people." The need to meet rising biofuel targets has also led to exploitation of workers, the loss of wildlife and higher food prices, the inquiry found.

The main transport biofuels that are currently used—bioethanol, made from maize and sugar cane, and biodiesel, made from palm and rape seed oil—both come from food crops and can have substantial ethical problems, the inquiry concluded.

But future generations of biofuel, made from agricultural waste such as straw, fast-growing perennials such as willow or miscanthus grass, or even algae grown in tanks, could avoid many of the problems by not competing directly with food. "These are very exciting technologies," said Leyser. "The potential is huge."

In the UK, 5% of transport fuel must come from renewable sources by 2013. Today, 3% of the UK's petrol and diesel comes from biofuel, mostly produced in Argentina, Brazil and other European countries. But in January, it was revealed that two-thirds of the biofuel being used in the UK today failed to meet environmental standards.

The Department of Transport is currently consulting on changes to the UK's biofuels regulations. Transport minister Norman Baker said: "It has already been agreed that no biofuel will count towards European renewable energy targets unless it meets certain sustainability requirements. But we are pushing the European commission to go further. Be in no doubt, we consider the sustainability of biofuels to be paramount."

An international certification scheme, like the Fairtrade scheme for food, must be introduced, the NCB inquiry concluded. It would guarantee that the production of biofuels met the five ethical conditions identified by the NCB:

- ☞ observing human rights
- ☞ environmentally sustainable
- ☞ reduced carbon emissions
- ☞ fairly traded and
- ☞ equitably distributed cost and benefits.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2011/apr/13/biofuels-targets-unethical>

Footnote to the Budget

Planning system ripped up!

Ever since the planning system was introduced in the post-war period, it has been underpinned by the aims of sustainable development. The balancing of priorities between environmental, social and economic considerations has never been perfect. However, the aim of the planning system to take all three into account, and the rights of stakeholders to get involved in the decision-making process, has ensured a robust mechanism for shaping our communities.

However, the Government's Planning for Growth paper, which came out at the same time as George Osborne's budget, lays out the future of the planning system as the coalition sees it:

- The National Planning Policy Framework, the slimmed-down replacement for Planning Policy Statements, will be **pro-growth**.
- There will be a **presumption in favour of development**. That means that the onus is on campaigners to prove that the development is unsuitable rather than on the developer to demonstrate that their proposal meets the needs of the community.
- Offices, warehouses and business parks can be converted into houses **without planning permission**. Where is the consideration of whether the local infrastructure for this housing exists? Offices and warehouses do not require schools, health centres and local retail outlets to support them but houses most certainly do. The lack of supporting infrastructure will require cash-strapped public bodies like councils and health trusts to build them or for residents to travel further afield to access essential services.
- Existing Section 106 agreements, conditions on development to help reduce their negative impacts, can be **torn up and rewritten**. These agreements are set up to ensure that the effects on communities of developments are mitigated.
- **Businesses will be able to write the plan for your neighbourhood**. This is an extension of the Localism Bill but potentially runs contrary to the expressed intention of the Bill as it allows large organisations to shape the development of local communities. Would you trust Tesco to write the plan for your neighbourhood?
- Developers and local authorities will **no longer be required to prioritise development on brownfield sites**. Where else are they going to build? On Greenfield sites which are cheaper to build on.

continued on page 5

● **Simplifying and speeding up the planning process.** Does this mean limiting the rights of the public to have their say? Does it mean that developers will not be required to show evidence that their development will not harm the local environment or community?

● The **Secretary of State will have the final say** on many of our major infrastructure projects. This is potentially adding greater democracy to the system but could have a massive impact if you have a pro-growth Government overturning the recommendation of a more holistic-thinking Planning Inspectorate.

A consultation on the National Planning Policy Framework is expected in May/June 2011 and Friends of the Earth will be updating local groups and campaigners on how best to respond to this in due course.

The Planning for Growth paper can be found at <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/newsroom/word/1871051.doc>

Simon Bowens

Yorkshire & Humber Campaigner
Friends of the Earth

New Localism Bill Hull City Council's interpretation

The latest **Hull Development Forum** meeting on 17 March had two parts: the new Localism bill and the Core Strategy. National FoE is not keen on the new bill, as explained when I attended a meeting at the Reading conference. It wipes out all the work done previously on various plans and strategies and removes some key organizations and substitutes some neighborhood management ideas that seem very strange.

This bill was not presented with all its danger points at the HDF meeting. The speaker told us that Neighbourhood forums or parish councils, not the city council would henceforth decide on development in their area. **This is not the case.** We have no neighbourhood forums, but if this means Ward Forums, then, as I remarked, a better exercise in tedium could not be devised.

Actually the bill says that as few as 3 people could take on the neighbourhood development and at the same time, a lot of the policy planning statements are wiped off the books.

It seems this bill is not well thought out. HCC is waiting for clarification; FoE has already decided it is unworthy.

Alex Codd, the speaker, said he hoped national FoE would be putting their objections to Mr Pickles & Co. I am sure they are!

The Core Strategy part concentrated on the city centre, but, as I've said before, anyone going to the centre has to travel through other areas so putting all one's eggs in the city centre basket seems mistaken. There is attention paid to the Newington and St Andrews ward and to Holderness Road, but that's it. Kingswood is destined to grow. For major infrastructure works the emphasis is on the A63.

The Core Strategy does include protection and expansion of a green infrastructure, although I'm not so keen on the conclusions, which were reached by consultants, not by users.

The Core Strategy will be published in June and be ready for examination during six months beginning in August. In spring 2012 it will be submitted to government, but perhaps by that time its fate will be that of the Regional Spatial Strategy—removed from consideration.

Haris Livas-Dawes

Transition Hull *update*

We were pleased that the **Permaculture Course** we arranged to run in Hull attracted enough participants to go ahead. It was a very productive weekend, and we made contact with some new people. There is a short report on the course on our website www.transitionhull.co.uk/ (scroll down the home page).

On the plot we've acquired on **Constable Street playing field**, we have helped local children plant flowers and seeds. They seem enthusiastic, and we have applied for a small grant to finance some raised beds, which might be better than the clay soil for root veg. If you want to be involved, please ring Lausanne on 228637.

We took part in the successful **Networking Event** in Cottingham (see Diana's report, page 3).

We held a **Scrappy do workshop** for kids in February half term. We've screened the following **environmental films**: The Age of Stupid, No Impact Man and Vanishing of the Bees. We're building up a library of DVDs and can arrange to loan them out (contact Jenny on 845356). The next programme of films will be in the autumn.

Regular meetings continue 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month, 7.30 at the Eagle, Anlaby Road—all welcome. Mainly it's discussion

and planning, but recently we had a talk about the Pickering Road Community Orchard, and a talk about Fair Trade, with goods on sale. We held our AGM in March, followed by a bring and share supper.

We have been invited to the **May Day Celebration** at Pickering Road Community Orchard. This will be held Sunday 1 May 12.30 to 3.00 pm. Maypole and Morris Dancers are involved!

The **Barn Dance** in January was fun, and we have another organised for **Fri 13 May** at 7pm at the Boulevard Village Hall. Families welcome! There is a small entry charge, and contributions to a bring and share supper would be appreciated.

During the better weather, we hope to organise a **variety of trips** to places that interest us, locally and further afield. These might include a visit to the Rainbow community garden in Hull, Far Ings Nature Reserve south of the river, and the Permaculture site in Leeds.

For more details see our website, come to our meetings, or contact us (details front page).

Jenny Parsons

www.transitionhull.co.uk/

Wildlife notes

I'd planned for frosty weather, but 10cm of snow was an unexpected problem. Scraping away the snow to find the planting stations for the trees was fun! Anyway, Louise and I managed to plant 35 out of 100 trees and they are now showing green shoots.

Cowslips planted on the sides of Barmston Drain are well established after 4 years and have been suddenly joined by celandine. There is a good crop of meadowsweet but this tends to get mown out by the Environment Agency's maintenance routine. Pity.

Guerrilla gardeners, dressed in suitable dark clothing and under cover of darkness, (I was still wearing a high visibility jacket) had a go at planting along the cycle path behind Park Grove and along Queens Road. The aim is to improve the range of wildflowers along these public areas and enhance these corridors for wildlife. The term "green corridor" appeared in the Hull Daily Mail

article about Endyke Lane School and the development of the site backing on to Barmston Drain.

The proposed development of the area around Alexandra Dock for Siemens involves diverting the waterfront path around the site with landscaping and viewpoints. I've put in a request for native trees and shrubs with wildflowers. We'll see.

Sculcoates Cemetery

As I pen these notes, Crown Paints (aka Blundells) is being featured on Look North, which brings us back to Sculcoates Cemetery. Regular contributions by Community Payback, and now CVS, keep pushing the work on.

An Open Day is planned for Saturday **30 April 11am to 2pm**. HRH may not attend, due to a headache or some such.

David Longthorn

Planet before profits?

Although my degrees are not in Economics, I have always followed the subject. Recently I attended a lecture at Chatham House in London given by the author who wrote the book *When China Rules the World*. His thesis was that within 20 years it will be Chinese currency that will be the world's reserve currency, not the dollar, and that China will be the world's Number One Superpower. I shall watch that prediction.

Closer to home, the latest issue of "New Internationalist" was about the financial crisis here. They remind us that the crisis started in 2007 when the banks stopped lending to each other. "Using blackmail on an industrial scale they once again persuaded obsequious governments to prop them up and take over their toxic loans." Then followed the Credit Crunch, Recession and the Age of Austerity. Most people think that the general public should not have to suffer for the banks' misdeeds, yet the government persists in using our money to rescue the banks and even in printing more money to hand over to them. The banks, in return, are still doing their own thing, which includes paying huge bonuses to the very men who caused the problem.

It seems the public doesn't have much faith in banks. According to Triodos fully 36% of UK savers can't find a single reason to recommend their bank. It all could have been different if, instead of saving the banks, the government had used time and money to construct "a post-carbon society in the interests of our own children." A Green Dawn could have appeared, but didn't.

FoE has also been examining the financial sector and points out in their latest leaflet "Profit before Planet" that big businesses are to blame for undermining environmental policy. Big Business has the financial clout to put pressure on politicians and knows the power of political lobbying. FoE would like to increase its 2 million members world-wide and engage them in a campaign to force the government to put the planet before profits.

Haris Livas-Dawes

Local food & open farm event in Great Hatfield



As a prelude to Hornsea Carnival's Local Food Festival, we are holding a similar event at **Densholme Farm** in Great Hatfield (3 miles from Hornsea) on **Sunday 12 June** as part of the annual Open Farm Sunday.

The event will include:

- ▶ cookery demonstrations from local chefs,
- ▶ healthy eating and

lifestyle stalls from East Riding Council,

- ▶ games and activities for children and
- ▶ tours of the farm.

The farm will be open to the public from 10am to 4pm.

The event is being organised in collaboration with ERYC, Hornsea Town Council, Hornsea Carnival Committee, Hornsea Area Regeneration Project and Hornsea Freeport, so we will be able to publicise it to the full and expect to attract a large turnout.

If you would like to run a stall at the event please contact me; details below. The cost of a stall is only £10 as we hope to attract a large number of stallholders with a view to possibly running the event on a regular basis.

Paul Hanson

Project Manager, Densholme Community Care Farm
Great Hatfield, East Yorks HU11 4UX

Tel: 0797 444 0706

Home grown Hornsea

A new group has recently been formed with the aim of encouraging the town to produce and consume more of its own food. HOME GROWN HORNSEA believes that, with fuel prices soaring and supply diminishing, local food is going to become increasingly important in the coming years. Not only might it become an economic necessity to grow more of our own, but there are also great health benefits to be had from eating food which is likely to be fresher and grown more naturally, not to mention the environmental benefits.

After an initial presentation to the council in February during which the group requested suggestions for vacant areas where fruit and nut trees or vegetables could be planted by and for the community, the next step will be to encourage local groups and individuals to join the group in doing just that. Other plans include: holding seed, plant and produce swapping days at the allotments and the United Reformed Church, starting a local food consumer group, a garden share scheme connecting people who have too much garden to manage with those who don't have enough, and much more...

In May an excursion is planned to Todmorden in West Yorkshire which has been a major influence on the group. Their local food initiative, Incredible Edibles, has managed to inspire the whole town to become involved in working towards complete food self sufficiency by 2018!

There is no reason why Hornsea can't do the same and become a pioneering town in the East Riding. The group is hoping that many more people will feel inspired to get involved and help bring the whole community together for an exciting common cause.

For further information, to get involved or join the excursion, please contact:

homegrownhornsea@yahoogroups.com
or ring Paul on **0797 444 0706**

Keeping up the Food Campaign

FoE Food Campaign Staff and many food campaigners from across the UK got together at the beginning of April in Birmingham to look at where the Food Campaign is now and to discuss future plans.

The food chain

For the last two years Friends of the Earth have called on the government to change the way meat and dairy is produced in the UK. The Food Chain linked the destruction of the rainforest with soy production - a key ingredient in animal feed. The campaign culminated in a Bill presented to Parliament (the Sustainable Livestock Bill) in November. Unfortunately it was filibustered and ran out of time. It is still a legitimate tactic to 'talk a bill out'. There is to be a debate on 10 June about the second hearing.

Even though the Bill was not passed the momentum from the campaign will not be lost and it will be taken to Europe, so watch this space!

Big picture

In general, there has been a global focus on food mainly resulting from crises due to price rises and climate issues but the same false solutions are still being wheeled out—better technology, GM, etc. The NFU still supports intensive farming and mega-farms and nanotechnology and cloning are still on the menu.

Solutions need to be delivered at a local level and Agroecology is the new buzzword—sustainable farming methods reliant on ecological principles.

CAP reform

One development taking place is the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy which could make a major difference to farming across Europe. It was set up in the 60s to re-establish food security in Western Europe after the war but it ended up leading to overproduction and waste. Over the whole of Europe, a large part of €36 billion in subsidies is spent on animal feed for intensive farming.

Localism Bill

We were given a talk on the Localism Bill (quite surprising to see it on the agenda but it will permeate so many corners of our world if it goes through). Planning has an enormous effect on food distribution and large supermarkets will undoubtedly benefit from the changes put forward.

Sustain

A member of the group Sustain gave a talk at the meeting. They support sustainable food and food co-ops and run an amazing bunch of optimistic campaigns such as the Real Bread Campaign, Children's Food Campaign and the Food and Mental Health Project. For more info go to www.sustainweb.org.

Meat free Mondays

Manchester FoE are running a very successful Meat Free Monday campaign and are aiming to make Manchester the 5th city in the world to be Meat Free on Monday! They already have most of the schools on board and are talking with the University. The local MP has taken the campaign to Westminster and tabled an Early Day Motion (EDM 669) calling for Parliament to be Meat Free on Mondays. Online action for this can be found at www.call4.org by clicking on Campaigns and scrolling down the list.

Other links:

www.tescopoly.org

Lee-ann



Hull Friends of the Earth

M E M B E R S H I P

I wish to become a member of Hull FoE <input type="checkbox"/> I wish to renew my Hull FoE membership <input type="checkbox"/> I wish to subscribe to the newsletter only <input type="checkbox"/>		Payment	
		I enclose:	
Name (Mr/Mrs/Ms)		Membership or subscription fee (£5 waged, £2 unwaged)	£
Address		Donation	£
Postcode		Total	£
Telephone		Please make cheques payable to Hull Friends of the Earth	
Email			
Standing Order Mandate		Happy to help?	
Hull Friends of the Earth Standing Order Mandate OR (delete one or the other as appropriate) Amendment cancelling any previous instructions to pay money to Hull Friends of the Earth. (Please fill in the details of your own account and the bank where it is held.)		Volunteers are always needed. If you might be able to help, please underline what you would be able to help with: ► Stalls ► Letter writing ► Delivering newsletters ► Other ways (please specify)	
Your account name		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Newsletter by email</p> <p>If you would like to receive the newsletter as a full colour pdf attachment, please send your email address to sue@jolliffe.karoo.co.uk stating whether you would like to receive it instead of or as well as a paper copy</p> <p>We will use the contact details you have provided to keep you up to date on our campaigns and how you can help us. If you'd rather NOT receive this information from us, please tick here <input type="checkbox"/></p> </div>	
Your account number			
Your bank			
Bank branch			
Bank address			
Bank postcode			
Upon receipt of this order and then every year following on or about the _____ day of _____ (month) until otherwise instructed, please pay to Hull Friends of the Earth, Yorkshire Bank plc, 38 Prince's Avenue, Hull HU5 3QQ Account number: 27534801 Branch sort code: 05 05 25 the sum of TWO POUNDS (unwaged) or FIVE POUNDS (waged) or _____ (delete and/or fill in as required - donations over the minimum amount are welcome) mentioning the reference _____ (your own name or something short we can identify you by on the bank statements!) Signed _____ Date _____			
Please return to the Membership Secretary , Sue Jolliffe, 47 Kingsway, Cottingham, HU16 5BB			

Hull Friends of the Earth: CONTACTS

Coordinator: Sue Jolliffe, 47 Kingsway, Cottingham, HU16 5BB Tel: 845958 Email: sue@jolliffe.karoo.co.uk

Newsletter: Hilary Byers, 170 Victoria Avenue, Hull HU5 3DY Tel: 445747 Email: hilary@amskaya.karoo.co.uk

Web: www.hFoE.org.uk
www.FoE.co.uk/hull

Email: jolliffe@jolliffe.karoo.co.uk