



DIARY DATES

Tues 1 May 7.30pm

HFoE meeting. Recycling Unlimited 151 Newland Avenue

Sat 5 May 11-2pm

Wildflower planting in Sculcoates Cemetery

Sun 6 May 12-3pm

May Day at Pickering Road Community Orchard

Tues 5 June 7.30pm

HFoE meeting. Recycling Unlimited 151 Newland Avenue

Sat 9 June 12 noon onwards

VISTA event in Princes Avenue. HFoE & Transition share stall. Helpers needed!

Sundays 1 & 8 July 12 noon onwards

Avenues Open Gardens; usually an HFoE stall at 170 Victoria Avenue; help always welcome.

Tues 3 July 7.30pm

HFoE meeting. Recycling Unlimited 151 Newland Avenue.

Sat 14 July 11am

Hessle Road Pram Race. HFoE & Transition stalls. Bee activities!

Lots more events inside!

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Save our bees!

FoE launches major campaign

National FoE have just launched their new **Bee Campaign**. The purpose of this is to draw attention to the plight of bees and insect pollinators in general. The campaign also reflects the larger issue which is the loss of biodiversity.

Most people have heard of the problems bees are having. There have been many articles in the press mentioning the devastating Colony Collapse and just as many opinions as to what may be causing it. Pesticides, GM crops, varroa mite infestations and signals from DECT phones interfering with bees'

to hand pollinate fruit trees because they have destroyed their bee populations through intensive agriculture.

The campaign aims to draw awareness to the bee issues and to lobby the government to draw up a Bee Action Plan. The plan outlines action on the planning of our towns, the way we farm and use pesticides, and funding for nature experts in the Government to ensure vital bee populations are restored.

Bee Prepared

On the 24 March, Northern FoE groups gathered to kickstart the campaign off in Darlington. There was a panel event and



discussion, the theme being 'The plight of the bee: why it matters and what we can do about it' with Friends of the Earth campaigners Sandra Bell and Paul de Zylva. We had talks by Vicky Kindemba from Buglife, Kym Prichard (a local beekeeper

and tutor at Beekeeping Courses North), and Hull's own Dr Chris Coulson who demonstrated some hives.

We were introduced to the idea of bee corridors, where farmers and landowners are being encouraged to grow long rows of bee-friendly flower meadows that will hopefully extend north to south and east to west. Buglife are working with the Co-op to make this happen in Yorkshire.

homing systems are frequently cited as potential suspects.

We have become almost oblivious to the essential ecosystem functions carried out unseen by nature. It has been calculated that if we had to replace the pollination services carried out by bees in the UK it would cost 1.8 billion pounds annually. In some areas of China they are having

Continued on page 6

ECO Chit Chat

Our first **informal Get Together** at Beyond Coffee on Chanterlands Avenue was very successful with 14 of us gathering. There will be more, as soon as we can book some dates. Contact Lee-Ann on 07583 194313 to keep informed. And don't forget **Beverley Green Drinks** at the Green Dragon in Beverley on the 13th of every month.

ECO is buzzing this edition, with news of the **Bee Campaign** and interview with local beekeeper Chris Coulson (see page 7). Encouraging bees is all about increasing biodiversity generally. So while we would agree with calls by Hull Civic Society and others to improve the appearance of roadside areas and roundabouts on the approaches to our city, let's not make them so neat that there is no room for wildlife, and especially resist using pesticides and weedkillers. A management regime that encourages wildlife can also cut the cost of maintenance.

If you want to help encourage biodiversity, why not come along to **Sculcoates Cemetery** on Saturday 5 May between 11am to 2pm to help plant wildflowers? Everything will be provided; just turn up prepared for the weather.

There should be plenty of apple blossom to attract the bees to **Pickering Road Community Orchard** on Sunday 6th May 12-3pm when they hold their May Day celebrations. Group singing, Morris dancing and dancing round the maypole will be happening, and a special guest will be joining the dancers! All are welcome. The Orchard is reached from Cranberry Way, off Pickering Road.

Meanwhile in my far from neat vegetable garden, the **Mborage** is coming up again. A packet of seeds sown 3 years ago has ensured a continuing display of attractive blue flowers which the bees love, benefiting the pollination of my tomatoes and raspberries.

If you live in Hull and ever wondered what happens to the stuff you put for recycling in your **Blue Bin**, make sure you get the next ECO in July. On Wed 25 April, Hull FoE members and friends are off on a trip to Aldridge near Wallsall to visit the depot where it is sorted and sent on to new uses. **Thanks to Hull Waste Management** for organising this visit for us. You can be sure we will be asking lots of questions, including why sorting can't take place a lot nearer to Hull!

On a recent visit to the USA I experienced a welcome trend which I thought we could usefully copy here. In restaurants, if you are too full to finish your meal, you will be offered a box to take home the remains, useful for lunch the next day. This seems to apply even in the 'posh' restaurants. Obviously the restaurant, as well as the customer, benefits from having less waste. I'm trying it with restaurants I visit here, and so far it has worked.

John Beardmore, warden at Hull Friends Meeting House, is **refurbishing bikes to sell at Emmaus' charity shop** on Newland Avenue. John says 'I was forever picking up bits of bikes while walking the dog.' He added 'Each bike can take four or five hours or sometimes more, but the finished product earns the Emmaus charity shop £50. By the time

I part with them they comply with safety checks.' (Info from magazine 'The Friend'). Emmaus communities offer homeless people a home, work and the chance to rebuild their lives in a supportive environment. Emmaus has raised about £2.2m towards the £3m cost of building facilities for a community in Hull. The number of homeless people in Hull is increasing, and **the shop would especially welcome donations of sleeping bags and blankets.**

The Woodland Trust has launched a campaign to **Save Ancient Forests for Everyone**. It asks for all ancient woodlands to be protected no matter who owns them; for binding commitments in any sale conditions to maintain existing wildlife value and levels of public access; and for restoration of all the Forestry Commission's damaged ancient woods defaced by conifers. See www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/save-ancient-forests.

Charlie Spencer says their **Energy Works** (energy from waste) project, which has planning permission for a site off Dalton Street near the River Hull, is currently awaiting the Department of Energy and Climate Change review of their Renewable Obligation Certificates. Without ROCs there is no Government grant. We have asked to be kept up to date with progress.

Got something to say about an environmental issue? Want to publicise an event coming up? Send it to us. You don't have to be a member of a group. ECO comes out 4 times a year. Deadlines are the first Tuesday in January, April, July and October. Send to Hilary (see back page). With events, remember to include where and what date and time they are taking place.

Hilary Byers

Bees and neonicotinoids

Further on the subject of bees, a petition is trying to get DEFRA to ban the use of neonicotinoids in gardens. **Care2 Action** alerts tell us that recent studies in France and the UK show that neonicotinoids drastically reduced the navigation abilities of bumblebees and, worse, cut the production of queen bees by 85%. Neonicotinoids are widely used throughout the UK, on farmland and in gardens as insecticides. Seeds are even pre-treated with the chemicals, which is completely unnecessary. Pesticides should be a last resort, not used before pests have even appeared.

Links to the petition can be reached via www.thepetitionsite.com/uk-ban-neonicotinoids



Newsletter by email

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

Electricity from Biomass

Plant proposed for King George Dock by Reality Energy

Planning Exhibition held on 25 Feb 2012 at the Freedom Centre, Preston Road

This was a public exhibition of the proposed Electric Power station powered by Biomass which David Longthorn and I attended. I was taken round by John Gallimore, the Commercial Director of Reality Energy. Most of the comments below are from discussions with him.

Source of fuel

Reality's philosophy is to minimise energy losses throughout the operation (from source to generation) so they are looking at building power stations at various ports like Hull for efficient fuel supply. The intention is to use the closest Biomass source to the Power station.

It is anticipated that it would be virgin wood and they seem to be focused on using the waste from logging ie small branches that would go to waste currently. Some residue would be left to maintain the quality of the forest floor.

The impression was that it would be from northern areas: Latvia, Russia, possibly France. No contracts with definite sources have been agreed and it's unlikely we'll get any details as it would be commercially sensitive. This wood would be dried and pelletised. This is a well-established process and would occur locally to the logging. The pellets would then be transported to Hull via road and sea transport.

This information was a bit puzzling as it is at variance with phone conversations Sue has had with Real Energy where potential sources were said to be from logging whole trees in North America, which would significantly increase the carbon emissions.

The system will be designed so it could take some local biomass eg straw waste. Given the amounts available and the plant design, it would only be possible to use at most 10% of this sort of fuel. They categorically stated that **NO** waste would be burnt.

Sustainability of the source

This would have to conform to EU sustainability requirements in order to get the Renewable Obligation Certificates (ROCs). In addition, the financing of the project through the banks requires that this is the case and this aspect would be scrutinised so as not to jeopardise funding.

CO₂ release

There seem to be several ways of calculating CO₂ release, making comparisons difficult, but the CO₂ emissions from the full life cycle analysis appear to be significantly less than coal or gas.

Use of heat energy

This will be designed as a Combined Heat and Power unit, so the waste heat after electricity is generated **could** be used for other processes eg heating local buildings. Reality's strategy is to site these power units in industrial settings with the hope that they can entice surrounding industries to use the heat. No deals have yet been made for this in Hull.

Cooling

The plant will be built with air cooling. This should avoid the pollution issues of using river water, but they haven't totally ruled out using water taken from the adjacent King George Dock.

Emissions

Particulates were the main concern and they would be very low; scrubbing of emitted gases takes place and emissions would be monitored. Reality's philosophy is to minimise carbon emissions from electricity production.

In general

Diversity in energy generation is needed to provide backup for wind; nuclear will take too long to build whereas this Biomass plant would be up and running in 3 years. They seem to have done a lot of thinking and planning; they had a good technical knowledge, as far as I could judge and want to have open and frank discussions. They are happy to spend more time with us if necessary.

There is a copy of the Scoping report available.

What is Hull FOE's response?

We discussed this at the March HFOE meeting and agreed our concern was on the sustainability of the fuel source and how that would be guaranteed and checked.

This is going to be a difficult one to assess as the sourcing is unlikely to be defined or made public before planning permission is granted.

The planning application is scheduled to go in May 2012.

Ian Jolliffe

Giroscope promotes renewable energy

Giroscope is a housing charity specialising in renovating derelict Victorian and Edwardian houses for people in need in Hull. They started in 1985 as a group of students and unemployed people needing to solve their own housing problems. As well as providing housing, they train volunteers in building skills.

On 23 March they had an open day at their premises in Arthur Street, off Anlaby Road, telling people about their recent work providing insulation and renewable energy sources to properties in West Hull. There was an opportunity to see the solar panels on their own premises, both thermal and photovoltaic. Signs inside explained their working.

There were also models showing their methods of insulating the walls of houses.



Model illustrating types of insulation

Generally they insulate the external walls from the inside, thus allowing the outside brickwork to 'breathe' and keeping the original appearance of the outside of the house. They use a variety of approaches depending on the circumstances, eg whether the room is prone to condensation. As they rent out the houses, they will be in a good position to assess which insulation methods and combinations of materials work best in the long term.

Giroscope are looking for volunteers and investors. See www.giroscope.org.uk

Hilary Byers

Beverley FoE meet 3rd Thursday each month at Nellies' pub, Beverley, 7.30pm.

Festival & Green Fair in a rural setting

Beverley FoE is involved with Cath and Pete Rollinson and others in organising a rural music festival on Friday 28th and Saturday 29th September this year, called **Cornucopia**. It will take place at Low Farm, Driffield, East Riding of Yorkshire, YO25 9AX

The festival incorporates Beverley Green Fair but it will be more about learning skills rather than selling stuff.

This is what the organisers say about it:

Cornucopia 2012 is a brand new boutique festival set in the rural idyll of unspoilt East Yorkshire, with the simple aim of producing a chilled-out atmosphere to celebrate the mellowness of the changing season, spiced with fine music, food and drink. This inaugural Cornucopia Festival will offer an eclectic mix of:

- ▶ Americana, Folk and some classic British R&B
- ▶ Fine local produce and beer
- ▶ Traditional games
- ▶ A green fair, including 'hands on' crafts with a green theme

all situated on an idyllic working farm in rural East Yorkshire.

Beverley FoE says there will be a big tent, and the setting offers huge scope for nature and biodiversity activities; also arts and crafts. They are especially looking for people who will help with children's activities and with the food.

We should have more information by next ECO but in the meantime look at <http://www.cornucopiafestival.co.uk> to see how far the planning has gone.

If you want to take part, contact Beverley FoE via Shan Oakes on:

E shan@voice-international.net

T 01482 862085

or contact the festival organisers at

E cornucopia2012@hotmail.com

Big Spring Beach Clean

www.sas.org.uk

The weekend of 24-25 March saw the campaign group Surfers Against Sewage's Big Spring Beach Clean. The group were founded in 1990 by surfers who were suffering repeated ear, nose, throat and gastric infections because of sewage-related bacteria in the sea.

Hundreds of surfers cleaned beaches all over the UK drawing attention to its 'Think Before you Flush' campaign. Wet wipes, tampons and cotton buds are some of the most offending items that the public still flushes down the loo, although the figures show a reduction for last year.

The Marine Conservation Society surveys beach litter annually in its Beachwatch campaign. This year nearly 1000 volunteers helped to remove over 3000kgs of marine litter. The figures released in March* showed an 11 per cent drop in overall shore litter and a 33 per cent fall in sewage related debris such as cotton buds, condoms and sanitary products across the UK last year.

The amount of rubbish turning up on our beaches is still very high and unfortunately there is a new trend in bags of dog poo. 70% of the rubbish is plastic—packaging, wrappers, bottles and bags. Surfers Against Sewage have a Return to Offender programme whereby some of the material collected will be posted back to the multi-nationals whose products they find. They have compiled a list of the "Dirty Dozen" whose identifiable products regularly turn up and get sent back. Chief offender is Coca Cola, closely followed by Pepsi.

Lee-Ann Williams

*On MCS Beachwatch Big Weekend 2011, 4,500 volunteers cleaned 335 beaches, collecting 247,914 pieces of litter—almost 1,741 for every kilometre.

Hull BID Fashion Week

CLOTHES SWAP

Saturday 5 May

11am

Holy Trinity Church

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust activities over the coming months include:

May 5..... Dawn Chorus
13..... Beginners Bird Watching
19..... Ecology Day
20..... Introduction to Wildlife Photography
June 24 Wildflower Walk
July 14..... Butterflies
21..... Bug Safari
7/14/21/28..... Bats and Moths
18/19..... Dragonflies and Damselflies

Find out more on www.ywt.org.uk/whats-on

PLEASE NOTE: BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL FOR ALL THESE ACTIVITIES

You can find out more, and book places by calling: (01482) **441013**

or email

fiona.weir@ywt.org or helen.holford@ywt.org

Harriet Linfoot, Community and Wildlife Officer,
 Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

Tel: 01904 659570 (York) 01482 441013 (Hull)

**Yorkshire
 Wildlife
 Trust
 EVENTS**

MARINET successfully lobbies MEPs

Marinet members' support for the Common Fisheries Policy Reform campaign has accomplished a great deal

- ▶ Through letters to EU Fisheries Ministers and MEPs, we have succeeded in informing **all** Fisheries Ministers in the EU countries and **all** MEPs on the Parliament's Fisheries Committee of the need for Common Fisheries Policy reform to re-establish **food security** (the ability to feed ourselves from EU fish stocks throughout the whole year, without importing fish from other seas and oceans as we do at the moment) by means of **re-building fish stocks** to levels which we know are sufficient to this task, using **closed areas (marine reserves)** centred on spawning and nursery grounds as a key tool to rebuild stocks.
- ▶ Through recent lobbying of MEPs on the Fisheries Committee we have managed to table **three amendments** for debate by the Fisheries Committee, with a vote on these amendments on 10th July. These amendments are:
 - ▶ The Common Fisheries Policy should ensure that fishing and aquaculture activities contribute to long-term sustainable environmental, economic, and social conditions. It should contribute moreover to increased productivity, **the delivery of food security**, a fair standard of living for the fisheries sector, stable markets, ensure the availability of resources and that supplies reach consumers at reasonable prices.
 - ▶ Maximum Sustainable Yield means the maximum catch that may be taken from a fish stock indefinitely **and that provides for the restoration of stocks to maximum levels of abundance that current ecological conditions will permit.**
 - ▶ Prohibition or restriction of fishing activities in certain zones and/or periods, **including the spawning and nursery grounds of fish and shellfish stocks.**

The lobbying undertaken by Marinet members to secure the tabling of these amendments has impressed the marine NGOs in Brussels, and we have been complimented on this by the staff of Ocean 2012. However, we still have to actually persuade the MEPs to adopt these amendments. This means **winning the vote on 10th July.**

Future Actions

We will be asking **you** to give your support to an **intensive lobbying** of all the MEPs on the Parliament's Fisheries Committee so that they **vote for** these amendments on 10th July. If you sign up to get Hull FoE emails we will let you know what we want you to do and when.

What has the Hull FoE input been?

After lobbying from Marinet, Chris Davies MEP added the three amendments to the bill to be debated by the Fisheries Committee. These were endorsed by Linda McAvan, one of our local MEPs, whose support in the campaign was originally enlisted through contact from Hull FoE. This shows the value of lobbying our local representatives!

Our efforts started with individual members writing to their local MP asking them to lobby Richard Benyon (the UK Fisheries Minister). This was followed by letters on behalf of Hull FoE to all our local MEPs. Recently, Marinet succeeded in mobilising support through its members to ensure that **all** EU Fisheries Ministers and all MEPs on EU Parliament's Fisheries Committee have received letters requesting their support. Some members of Hull and Beverley FoE have contributed to this.

Marinet Website

The website is now documented by the British Library. Since the beginning of the year there is a new section, titled **Planet Ocean**, which provides film, video and illustrated material on our seas and oceans. In this section there is film material on marine aggregate dredging, The Ocean Planet booklet, a special feature on whales, our illustrated Guide to British Marine Animals, and a remarkable video on California's Central Coast kelp forest.

If you have not yet visited this new section, see <http://www.marinet.org.uk/planetoccean.html>

Sue Jolliffe

Transition Hull update

The film *H2Oil* is showing on Saturday 28 April at 2.30pm at Boulevard Village Hall. It's about extracting oil from tar sands in Canada.

When weather allows, Transition members will be out on their plot on Constable Street, introducing local children to growing food. If you can spare an hour or two to help on a Saturday, just turn up, or text or ring Lausanne on 07816 141169



HABITAT OF THE HUMBER ESTUARY

The Campaign to Protect Rural England (Northern Lincolnshire Branch) are holding a

ONE DAY CONFERENCE

exploring the habitat of the Humber Estuary

on **Saturday 26 May, 10am to 3pm**

at **Water's Edge Country Park**, Barton on Humber

Programme includes impact of renewable energy, rising sea levels, flood protection, wildlife and geology
Optional guided tour after the conference

£10 including lunch and refreshments

(pay when you get there)

Booking essential by Friday 4 May

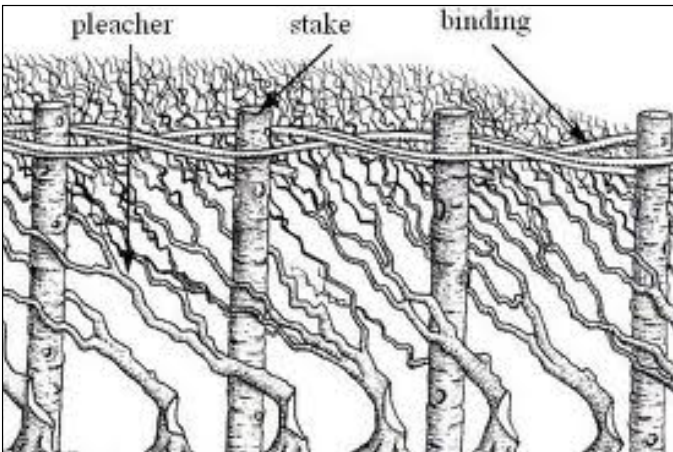
Contact Cath Farrell 01652 633924,
cathfarrell@btconnct.com

Wildlife notes

And there's more...

Just when I thought it was safe to sit down, YWT came up with another activity, hedge-laying. They put on a course at Noddle Hill, or was it a clever plan to improve an old hedgerow?

A professional hedge-layer showed us the ropes and we (about ten volunteers of all ages) set on hesitantly producing a dense neat hedge. Confidence increased as we guided another set of trainees in the next session and even more with a group of 20+ first year students from Hull University.



The best way to learn is to teach. I had a chance to do some private practice at the Newland Tree Nursery. The growth is about 10 years old and ideal for pleaching; it's too early for nests and the branches are bare. The intended Yorkshire style laying was more freestyle and at 1 metre/hour should keep me going for a few years. It's good to see these crafts still in use.

The "Bees, Butterflies and Blooms" series of programmes on BBC 2 showed the various attitudes of people to a more natural style of planting, designed to attract pollinating insects, instead of the usual highly bred and sterile formal displays that have become routine. A brief glimpse of an

herbaceous border in Harrogate left me shouting for more. Look at the YWT programme of events for local activities about wildflowers and bees.

Meanwhile, the forest came to Hall Road School. With a target of 1+ tree/pupil, with sizes from 0.1m to 5m (trees not kids) and the whole school to get through, Ann and John had a busy schedule delivering trees to the site. The end result, for now, was a sizeable plantation of native trees and hedgerow with some special features. A tree-lined avenue greets you on entry to the playground and a diamond design is to be finished with a Royal Oak, to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee. Areas have been set aside for a wildflower meadow, willow bed and pond in coming seasons. This represents a considerable commitment in time and effort to the school environment for the benefit of pupils, staff, residents and wildlife for the future. A knock-on effect of all this planting was the creation of some empty spaces in the tree nursery. They are being filled.



Patches of snowdrops, celandine and daffodils have quickly been and gone in the warm dry weather; it's hopefully raining now, and the grass needs mowing again. There's also been a sudden spurt of "green" meetings and consultations. Whether these will be productive remains to be seen. A generous application of manure might help. Some time back there was a discussion on the theme of "Quality v Quantity". I can see that sites like Noddle Hill represent quality but small inner city sites, like the railway triangle near the KC stadium, are valuable because they expose many more people to a wildlife area.

The value of natural green open spaces for children was raised by a spokesman from the National Trust. The basic message was that kids should "get out more".

David Longthorn

Save our bees! continued from page 1

Plantlife, a conservation charity, estimates that the UK lost 97% of its wildflower meadows between 1930 and 1980 due to neglect and development. It is now more important than ever that we safeguard insects' habitat.

To round up the day we were treated to a visit to Growzone, an allotment run by Darlington FoE. An inspirational project which provides new allotments for people on a nearby estate. It has two of its own hives, which fascinated us all.

What we can do

- ▶ We can sign the petition: http://www.foe.co.uk/what_we_do/bee_cause_petition_35038.html
- ▶ We can look at what we use on our gardens. The use of neonicotinoids is not restricted to farmland. There are many products that we use on our gardens that include this systemic insecticide. It comes under various names

so look out for anything that contains acetamiprid, imidacloprid, thiacloprid or thiamethoxam.

See the Soil Association page for more details:

<http://www.soilassociation.org/wildlife/bees/householdpesticides>

- ▶ We can leave our grass to grow just that little bit longer before we cut it.
- ▶ Sign EDM 2664 <http://www.thepetitionsite.com/28/ban-the-use-of-neonicotinoid-pesticides/>
- ▶ Look out for Hull FoE stalls over the summer and come and 'build-a-bee'! Find out how to make a bee hotel, where to buy local honey and what flowers to plant in your garden.

Other Links

The Co-Op are relaunching their Plan Bee campaign for 2012: <http://www.co-operative.coop/Plan-Bee>

Lee-Ann Williams

Hilary Byers interviews...

beekeeper Chris Coulson

Q. How did you first become interested in keeping bees, Chris?

A. I had an uncle who kept bees and gave me a honeycomb as a child. Later I trained as a biologist and started keeping bees myself in 1974, beginning with just one hive.

Q. How many hives do you have now?

A. I have 5 hives which I keep in my garden in Marlborough Avenue. You don't need a lot of room for the hives, but you do need a high fence or wall which will ensure that the bees fly up to above head height before they fly off over your neighbours' gardens!

Q. How far do the bees fly?

A. They can go up to 3 miles, but if there is plenty of pollen and nectar nearby they will tend to stay nearer the hive.

Q. Is it expensive to set up?

A. It needn't be. I make most of my own equipment, including my hives, most of it from reclaimed timber. I've built a solar powered extractor to purify and recycle old wax. This is a double-glazed box which heats up in the sun, melting and filtering the wax through old tights.

Q. The hive you showed us did not look like the traditional design.

A. To be honest, the usual English design you see on honey jar labels is not very good. The design I use is based on a design used in most of the rest of the world; it's easier to handle and to make but it's not the most popular hive in England.

Q. A beginner must need to learn how to handle the bees, though.

A. I would advise anyone to go on a course first and to join their local beekeepers' association where they'll get a lot of help from experienced beekeepers. Beverley Beekeepers (the nearest association to Hull) has a teaching apiary and they put on a one day introductory course. Then if you are interested in taking it further there is a 6 week evening course. You can get a mentor to help you when you first get started but for £5 you can become a 'Friend' and go to all the meetings and visits to get advice before you set up.



Chris Coulson, with his solar-powered wax purifier

Q. We've all heard that the bee population is declining. Why is that?

A. A number of reasons. Pests and diseases reduce numbers and there are new ones, like the Asian Hornet on the way to the UK. The Varroa mite feeds off the bees and has become resistant to the chemicals we formerly used to control it. Dusting the bees with icing sugar seems to help and observations by beekeepers have shown that some bees seem to be able to clean the mites off themselves. Another possible decline reason is that the species of bee we now keep is not our 'native' type. In 1912 a disease wiped out the old British Black Bee from most of the country and other queen bee lines were imported which could be less suited to our environment. Beekeepers are thinking we need to breed regional Queens—perhaps an East Riding-type Queen. We are also trying to 'find' our old native species and it's possible to identify them by scanning the pattern of their wings. You can easily do this at home with a computer.

The effect of pesticides on bee populations is well known, and we now know that neonicotinoid seed dressings can come through to affect the nectar. Monoculture spraying can be a problem.

Q. What should people be doing to encourage the bee population to recover?

A. Personally, I'd be wary of sowing packets of wildflower seeds, because of the risk of introducing pernicious

weeds if you don't know exactly where the seeds have come from, and also I've never found the germination very good. Some types of pollen provide better protein for bees than others. Sunflowers, lavender, pine trees and weeping willow are all attractive to bees but supply poor proteins. **White clover, crocus, pear, borage and dandelions** all supply good proteins. Growing soft fruit is good as it benefits both the bees and us!

How to help trap the deadly Asian Hornet

Chris has an idea of how FoE groups can help beekeepers by trapping the Asian Hornet. This hornet eats bees and is causing extensive damage to bees in Europe. It has reached Brittany and is expected to arrive in this country. He and other beekeepers have devised a simple trap and he suggests that some people might like to make one.

Contact Chris at candp@coulson96.karoo.co.uk or Hull FoE at Hilary@amskaya.karoo.co.uk or 01482 445747.

More information on bees and beekeeping from www.beverleybeekeepers.co.uk

Avenues Bicycle Project

new phone number: 07715307942

Chris Jarrell reports that the Avenues Bicycle Project (reported in last ECO) is half-way to filling a 20ft container with donated bikes. The majority need only minor repairs.

The project is building a small team of volunteers who all live, work or study in or around the Avenues area and are involved in marketing, bike collecting and preparing bikes for shipping. Links with the Village Bicycle Project are strengthening. They are looking for individual and corporate sponsorship to help pay for garage rental and offset the cost of shipping. They are also building links with the Ghanaian community in Hull.

www.avenuesbicycleproject.org
www.villagebicycleproject.org



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		Hull FoE Membership NEW RULES	
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.)		Thanks to everyone who paid their subs this year. Last year a lot of people forgot to pay, unfortunately, so we agreed to introduce a new rule to encourage people to be prompt. Subs are now due by 1 April each year If you have paid your subscription, you are a full member and will be covered by FoE insurance at our events and also entitled to vote at the AGM and other meetings. Anyone who misses a full calendar year will cease to be a member. If you already have a standing order (for any month) that's great and no change is necessary. Setting up a standing order is a good way to pay without having to remember every year (and saves us admin work!) THESE RULES WILL APPLY FROM 2013 Thanks for your cooperation. We haven't raised the cost of the subscription for years and years and it's a very small amount!	
Your account name			
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			

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

Hull Friends of the Earth: CONTACTS

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