

DIARY DATES

Tues 6 Aug 7.30pm

HFoE meeting Recycling Unlimited 151 Newland Avenue

Sat 17 Aug 3-7pm

Beach Party at Middleton Street Community Garden. All welcome!

Tues 3 Sept 7.30pm

HFoE meeting Recycling Unlimited 151 Newland Avenue

Mon 9 Sept 7.30pm

Talk: Chernobyl to Fukushima, Boulevard Village Hall (see page 7)

Fri 27 & Sat 28 Sept

Cornucopia Fest (see page 2)

Tue 1 Oct 7.30pm

HFoE meeting, Recycling Unlimited 151 Newland Avenue

Mon 21 Oct 7.30pm

Talk: Woodland Trust, Boulevard Village Hall (see page 7)

Tue 5 Nov 7.30pm

HFoE meeting, Recycling Unlimited 151 Newland Avenue

Mon 11 Nov 7.30pm

Talk: Permaculture, Boulevard Village Hall (see page 7)

Sat 7 Dec

Green Fair, Prospect Centre, Hull

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Food or (bio)fuel?



IMAGE: WWW.FOE.CO.UK

The EU Environment Committee voted on 10th July on proposals to reform the current biofuels requirements – an opportunity to ensure food crops are eaten rather than used for car fuel. Hull FoE played a part in influencing MEPs.

What's on the table?

The EU has a target to replace 10% of transport fuels with biofuels by 2020. As part of the Renewable Energy Directive an obligation was placed on the Commission to address the issue of emissions from indirect land use change (ILUC). [This means the conversion of land in other uses, such as forest, to grow food to replace the loss of food-growing land to biofuel crops]. ILUC to meet the 10% target could result in even higher greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions than fossil fuels. See http://www.foe.co.uk/resource/briefings/driving_to_destruction.pdf

The European Commission tabled a proposal last October that was supposed to address this issue. NGOs, including Friends of the Earth, had demanded ILUC penalty factors that would ensure more realistic carbon accounting for biofuels. The penalty factors would also mean that many biofuels made from food crops (eg palm oil, soy, rapeseed, wheat) would be ruled out.

But rather than including ILUC penalty factors the Commission's proposal included only a "reporting" requirement on ILUC by member states. This was a disappointing watering down of the proposal at the last minute.

The proposal also included a proposal to limit the amount of biofuels made from food crops to 5% (half of the overall 10% target). While a useful first step this doesn't go far enough as:

- a) Non-food crops like jatropha are not covered (even though they also take land away from food production).
- b) The use of crop-based biofuels should be ended altogether and 5% is still far too high.

There are a number of other shortfalls in the Commission's proposal that are explained in this joint NGO document: http://www.foe.co.uk/resource/briefing_notes/iluc_recommendations.pdf

The Commission's proposal has now gone to the European Parliament where amendments to the proposal can be made. The Environment Committee is the lead committee discussing the proposal.

Hull FoE's role

HullFoE wrote to our Local MEPs (Linda McAvan, Rachael Taylor and Godfrey Bloom asking for their support on this. The letter goes like this (thanks to those who helped with the drafting!)

"We understand that the EU Environment Committee will vote on proposals to reform the current biofuels requirements in early July. We note that the proposal includes the continued use of food crops to produce biofuels and we would like to raise two concerns.

Firstly, given the shortage of food in the world exacerbated by effects of climate change on current crop production, we believe there should be zero use of food crops in the production of biofuels. Current austerity measures are leading to an increase in poverty for many people, yet food prices are rising rapidly for many staples. Diverting

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Hull Transition

meet every 2nd Monday of each month at 7.30pm in Boulevard Village Hall

Keep in touch between ECOs

Let Sue know (*details back page*) if you are not on our **email list** and want to be kept informed.

eco CHIT CHAT

The Green Fair this year will be on Saturday 7 December at the Prospect Centre.

Note the later date. This is because the Prospect Centre now has a market on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month. We'll be taking stall bookings in September, so contact Hilary then if you want a stall.

Contact details back page.

There are lots of great events taking place soon; here are some of them:

Bells of Beverley Sat 3 August 11.30 am-4.30 pm

Toll Gavel and Beverley Arms Hotel. Celebration of all sorts of bells from church bells to morris dancing.

Yum festival of local food, real ale and live music, Thurs 8 - Sat 10 August

Hull City Centre. Cookery demonstrations, local produce market, free kids activities. www.yumfestival.co.uk

Hull Folk Festival Fri 30–Sat 31 August,

over 50 live music events around the Marina and Fruit Market. www.hull-folk.co.uk

Freedom Festival Fri 6–Sun 8 September

Performance, art, circus, music, dance, fire. If you want to take part in a torchlit procession through the Old Town on the opening night (careful with those torches!) email : freedomfestival@walktheplank.co.uk **before 6 August**. They are also looking for volunteer helpers.

www.freedomfestival.co.uk ; twitter.com/FreedomFestHull

Heritage Open Days Thurs 12-Sun 15 September.

So much going on you will wish you could be in three places at once. Look for the booklet with details of which buildings are open, guided tours, talks, craft events etc. www.hodshull.co.uk

Cornucopia Festival Fri 27 and Sat 28 September

This was great last year and will be even better this year in the beautiful grounds of Burton Agnes Hall. For those with long memories, it's a bit like the Rainbow Festival but better. Eclectic mix of Folk, Americana and RnB music, locally sourced good food and beer, Green Tent including pedal powered scaletrix. Bus nos 121 and 744. Tickets £28 day, £58 weekend&camp. www.cornucopiafestival.co.uk; www.wegottickets.com

Humber Street Market—held the third Sunday of every month, 11am - 4pm.

Now in its second year, the market has grown to over 50 stalls, an eclectic mix of handmade local crafts, fresh produce [some familiar faces here] and vintage stuff for all ages and budgets. Humber Street also offers a range of attractions including Fruit, Thieving Harrys Cafe, The Museum of Club Culture, Dinostar Museum, Eleven Gallery, The Kingston Art Group, Oresome Gallery and the recently opened Fruit Trade Recording Studio.

It's Been a Success!

We did it! On Friday 28 June Environment Minister Lord de Mauley announced a Bee Action Plan ('National Pollinator Strategy') at FoE's Bee Summit. Thanks again—your fantastic support has made this happen. It's not over yet though—we need to make sure the strategy has the right content.

Scottish people to pay for plastic bags

In a bid to reduce marine litter, the Scottish government is introducing a 5p charge for plastic bags from October 2014. Needed here? The Marine Conservation Society tells us that over 90% of fulmars found dead around the North Sea have plastic in their stomachs.

Free trees

The Woodland Trust are offering **FREE** trees for school, community and youth groups. Bring your community together to do something good for your neighbourhood by applying **before 13 September 2013** for the chance to receive a free tree pack to plant in November 2013. They say all you need to do is find a suitable site and supply the volunteer planters and tree protection. I'd recommend consulting your Council Tree Officer, though—and the land owner, of course!

www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/en/moretreesmoregood/free-trees

Hilary Byers

Energy Bill

Thanks to campaigning by about 200 organisations, including Friends of the Earth, there was a big rebellion by Conservative and Lib Dem MPs against the Government and in favour of setting a target for decarbonising energy production. Unfortunately it wasn't quite enough and the Energy Bill went through without the target. Local MPs had the opportunity to emphasise how vital having a target was to convince firms like Siemens to invest in renewables in Hull. The Bill now moves to the House of Lords where the pressure will be kept up to get the Bill amended.

Hilary Byers

Sculcoates Lane

Sculcoates Lane might not be the first place you would think of for a day at the seaside, but that is the theme of a garden being developed by 'Visibility', a community group of people who are visually impaired and their friends.

The site was the back yard of a redundant paint factory, strewn with old paint tins and overgrown with brambles. With help they soon had that lot cleared, and were building raised beds so that their more disabled members could take part in the growing of flowers, vegetables

and herbs. The middle of the site has a sandy 'beach' and 'waves' of blue and white flowers are being planted. When I visited on their open day the barbeque was in full swing, and ice creams were promised.

The site is down a path beside the old Mayfields paint factory on the south side of Sculcoates Lane. If you call on a Wednesday or Friday afternoon there will usually be some of the *Visibility* members, Paul, Glen, Dianne or David to show you round. You might also want to call at the factory where you can buy



recycled furniture and household goods or perhaps get low cost paint .

Contact Paul Clark: 07412 323501
www.communityrepaint.org.uk

North Ferriby Primary School

has created this delightful open air classroom in woodland in the corner of their playground.



The Children's Centre at Bricknell Primary School

are involving parents and children in growing food and planting wildflowers to encourage bees. They have successfully prevented Npower from spraying an adjoining sub station site with herbicide and are offering to manage the site in a wildlife friendly way.



Lee-ann tends the herb garden at Bricknell Children's Centre.

Ashes to ashes? Chalara Ash Dieback and the East Riding (PART 3)

The third in our series of news about Ash dieback (*Chalara*) from Hull FoE's own tree expert Jon Capel

Figures from national surveys seem to indicate that about 25-30% of our deciduous woodland trees in the East Riding are Ash. Ash is especially important to our area because it tolerates a wide range of soils. These include soils on limestone and chalk (i.e. the Wolds) where tolerance is needed not only of high soil calcium levels, but also of thin, free draining soils where there is a need for trees to resist summer drought. Ash also grows well on clays e.g. the Holderness Plain. Here, following Dutch Elm Disease, Ash trees have been left as the major component in woods (where it is a major home-produced timber) and hedgerows.

It is also one of the few native trees which readily grow from seed in any quantity in the wild, and foresters have traditionally used this natural regeneration technique as a way of a wood replacing itself after a timber crop has been felled and harvested, allowing them to avoid the trouble and expense of replanting. In the last 40 years, Ash has also been increasingly planted, particularly so for estate forestry

and shelter belts in the Wolds, and to some extent for woods and hedgerows elsewhere.

Landscape and habitat

Ash trees are important for their contribution to our landscape, especially the skyline shelterbelts on the Wolds, and scattered woods in the flatter areas. They are also very important habitats for wildlife - the average Ash supports a huge complex of biodiversity, especially moths, beetles (including the ash bark beetle), lichens and fungi. Ash also shelters a characteristic understorey flora (and associated fauna) , to the point where this Ash Woodland habitat forms an important part in the National Vegetation classification. Amongst its associates are Bluebell, Wild Garlic, Dog's Mercury, Wood Anemone and a host of other plants recognized as indicators of Ancient woodland sites; and animals such as the Lesser Stag Beetle, badgers, squirrels and a host of birds, including owls.

Loss of most or all Ash would probably mean that sycamore would be left as the major landscape and economic component of our rural landscape. So, in the worse case scenario the disease would have a dramatic effect on the East Riding landscape and its rural economy, particularly timber for construction and furniture and lower-grade uses like the craft industry and fuelwood.

Just think of the visual effect of the Wolds or Holderness landscapes with no sheltering ash trees! Make no mistake, we would notice it! –perhaps even more so than the elm disaster of the 1970's and 1980's.

Ash in our parks

The disease would have no less an effect on the urban environment in built up areas like Hull, because of the use of our native Ash and related species from around the world in our parks and gardens. It seems unlikely that specialised forms of our Common Ash or other introduced species will have any special resistance to *Chalara*.

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This film will make you smile!

Marinet have created a short and humorous 3 minute YouTube film which explains very simply the problem of fishing subsidies. Linked to this film is an Avaaz Petition addressed to President Barroso and the EU Fisheries Ministers insisting they reform EU fishing subsidies. We need 1 million signatures.

The Petition address is:

<http://avaaz.org/EUfish>

and the YouTube film address is:

<http://youtu.be/lm4dVTBEI7E>

Please sign the petition yourself and then email it to 10 new signatories in order to get them to create the chain effect.

The petition calls for an end to subsidies which lead to over-fishing and reform of the system so that subsidies can be used



to conserve and rebuild fish stocks. Marine reserves would be policed by fishermen, all funded by subsidy payments which are fully audited in an open and accountable way.

EU fishing subsidy payments total over 1 billion Euros annually, and are strongly implicated in the maintenance of over-capacity in the European fishing fleet which, in turn, leads to over-fishing. Over-fishing is not only destroying wild fish stocks—a key food resource—but is also causing severe damage to the marine ecosystem. This ecosystem supports both large animals, like dolphins and seabirds,

to the smallest creatures, like shrimps and tiny zooplankton. We cannot do this sort of damage to the marine world and believe we can escape the consequences.

Our fish stocks will only survive if we convert the subsidy system away from over-fishing. We must use this money instead as subsidies to finance conservation and the rebuilding of stocks whilst, most importantly, ensuring that the whole system of payments is fully transparent and accountable.

Not a single one of these proposals for reform of fishing subsidies is on the table at the present time. Payments are currently being made in the dark from the tax payer's point of view, and we are courting a breakdown in the ecological structure of our seas.

This is why this petition is so important. To speak plainly, it is our future, your children's future and the marine world's future which we are putting at risk. So please demonstrate your support for our campaign, tell others about it, and sign this petition.

Sue Jolliffe

Serious fun at FOE Basecamp



Friends of the Earth Basecamp at Hartington Hall, a youth hostel in a lovely little village was a real success. Obviously the weather was a major factor—warm and sunny throughout.

But a lot of thought had been given to detail and the organisation was first class.

Beverley FoE displayed their collection of five plays for schools which they initiated last year. We did a run through of the latest, a skit on a cookery programme around the theme of the 'F' word—fracking. Everyone enjoyed it.

Craig Bennett (Director of Campaigns) talked on the public mood and how we should respond. Surveys say that the overwhelming majority 'get' the point... so we need to change our campaigning style to reflect this. We are over-consuming, making foolish decisions affecting the future, and there is tons of evidence that many of our current problems are of our

own making. The problem is the collective denial about what to do about this...we therefore should take a straightforward approach giving the way forward in an assertive, not defensive, manner.

FoE is trying to get to grips with improving their approach to equalities and diversity, both as an organisation internally and in its external approach. If we don't engage with the whole population in all its diversity (age, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, ability, class etc) we won't get very far.

Shan and Bill Rigby

Toxics in East Yorkshire

Beverley FoE has written to ERYC asking them to develop a policy on the use of pesticides and herbicides by the Council and in the area covered by the Council.

The responses received to past efforts have offered no assurance that the Council is sensitive to the profound impact of inappropriate pesticide use.

We wrote:

"We know that some Local Authorities have developed a strategic plan for the use of toxic

substances, and would suggest that the time is ripe for East Yorkshire Council to do the same.

National and international headlines have been given to the loss of bees, other pollinating species, and birds, almost certainly caused by substances in regular use. There has also been recent publicity given to the finding of traces of chemicals in humans which are commonly used as weedkillers, although known to have serious health impacts. The dangers of chemicals to human and environmental health has been known since at least the 1960s when Rachel Carson's 'Silent Spring' was published, but powerful corporate lobbying of governments at national and international levels has gradually undermined legislation since then. It is no longer satisfactory to assume chemicals are safe just because the manufacturer says they are – and hence we need to take measures to protect ourselves at personal and local level, based on the precautionary principle... The Council has a responsibility to the community, future generations and other species, so we ask the Council to give this issue its urgent attention."

Bill Rigby

Coordinator, Beverley Friends of the Earth

From Chernobyl to Fukushima: lessons not learnt

Friends of the Earth UK policy on nuclear power can be summed up as follows: FoE is against nuclear power because we can answer our energy needs without it. It is very expensive; no answer has been found to the disposal of nuclear waste; nuclear installations present a danger from terrorism attacks.

I agree with all of the above but would like to include the health effects from nuclear accidents, and in particular Chernobyl and Fukushima. If the world had understood the true health effects from Chernobyl, nuclear power would have been finished. Those health effects have been kept hidden from us for a number of reasons. I want to look at two of these reasons.

The role of WHO

The first is very simple. The World Health Organisation has responsibility for informing us on health matters and the world's people trust their advice. But the WHO has links with the International Atomic Energy Agency, through an agreement signed in 1959, that prevent it from acting independently in the area of radiation. Following the accident at Fukushima, the WHO was quite open that journalists wanting information should consult the IAEA. The IAEA has provided the material for the two reports published by the WHO about Fukushima. These reports minimise the amount of radiation released and claim that there have been no health effects from Fukushima¹.

Likewise, WHO and the other UN bodies have continued to claim that only about 50 people have died as a result of Chernobyl and a few thousand potential deaths from thyroid cancer. Other estimates from organisations like Greenpeace or the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War put the mortality figures in the hundreds of thousands². A book published by the New York Academy of Sciences in 2009, by Yablokov, Nesterenko and Nesterenko, "Chernobyl: Consequences of the Catastrophe for People and the Environment", claims that nearly a million people have died up to 2004 and many more since then³. How can we explain this discrepancy?

Internal radiation

We come to the second reason why the health effects from Chernobyl have been hidden. The nuclear lobby does not dispute the enormous number of people ill and dying prematurely in the territories contaminated by Chernobyl, any more than it disputes the increased childhood leukaemia found around all nuclear power

stations. It simply claims that radiation at such low levels cannot be the cause. But these claims are based on outdated radioprotection models that use the data from survivors of the bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. These events, tragic as they were, cannot tell us much about Chernobyl. The atomic bombs were short-lived acute external radiation events and most people died through incineration. The people in the Chernobyl territories have experienced chronic low level **internal** radiation through eating contaminated food for 27 years. Internal radiation (where radioactive particles lodged in the body give off radiation for decades) is hundreds of times more damaging to health at a cellular level than the same dose of external radiation. This chronic low level internal radiation causes illness in every vital organ system of the body. As early as 2001, doctors from Belarus, the worst affected country, were reporting that before the accident 85% of their children were healthy, but in 2001, that proportion was 15%. In the worst affected villages, only 5% of the children were healthy⁴.

Fukushima

We come finally to Fukushima. It is clear now that Fukushima is as serious an accident as Chernobyl and potentially worse. It is still releasing vast amounts of radioactivity mostly into the Pacific, and there is an enormous threat from the pools of spent fuel rods, balanced precariously in buildings already damaged by the earthquake in 2011. According to Hiroaki Koide. Master of Science in Nuclear Engineering at Kyoto University, following the accident "...about 10 million people have been left in areas that should have been designated radiation controlled areas and they are exposed to continual radiation every day."⁵

The Japanese government has not got the resources to move people from these vast areas and so it pretends, as the ex-Soviet countries did after Chernobyl, that there is no problem. But people in Japan will become ill and die prematurely. At particular risk are children, and females. According to the BEIR report (Biological Effects of Ionising Radiation) that informs the nuclear industry in the USA, girls are almost twice as vulnerable as same-age boys, and a five year old girl is 5 times and an infant female, 7 times, more vulnerable (to the same radiation dose) as a 30 year old man⁶.

The Japanese government has increased the internationally accepted radiation limit for the public from 1 mSv per year to 20 mSv per year. They have also equipped

each child in Fukushima prefecture with a dosimeter so that their parents can see exactly how much radiation their child has received each day. This represents at best, a cynical public relations exercise, and at worst, a form of mental torture. The first health effects are already appearing. Between 3 and 10 children in Fukushima prefecture have developed thyroid cancer, a very rare disease (one in a million), and 36 % of children examined in the prefecture have abnormalities on their thyroid, that will need to be followed up⁷.

Friends of the Earth UK will be concerned about the fate of the Japanese people faced with this terrible health catastrophe, but should also strengthen their resolve to end nuclear power in the UK.

¹ www.independentwho.org/eng

² <http://www.greenpeace.org/international/en/news/features/chernobyl-deaths-180406/> and <http://www.ratical.org/radiation/Chernobyl/HEofC25yrsAC.html>

³ Available on line at <http://www.strahlentelex.de/Yablokov%20Chernobyl%20book.pdf>

⁴ Professor Vassili Nesterenko. Kiev Conference 2001 organised by WHO, whose proceedings were never published due to pressure from the IAEA. Nesterenko quoted in Wladimir Tchertkoff "Le crime de Tchernobyl: le goulag nucléaire". Actes Sud 2006.

⁵ Speaking at New York Symposium Fukushima March 2013 organised by Helen Caldicott, Nuclear Free Planet. <http://www.totalwebcasting.com/view/?id=hcf#>

⁶ <http://www.fairewinds.com/content/cancer-risk-young-children-near-fukushima-daiichi-underestimated>

⁷ <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/japan/9410702/Nearly-36pc-of-Fukushima-children-diagnosed-with-thyroid-growths.html>

Susie Greaves

Susie Greaves is a member of the organisation IndependentWHO that has one simple aim—to revise the agreement between the WHO and the IAEA so that the former can fulfil its mission in the area of radiation and health independently. She is the translator of Wladimir Tchertkoff's book "Le crime de Tchernobyl: le goulag nucléaire" published by Actes Sud in 2006. She is available to give a full version of her power point presentation, "From Chernobyl to Fukushima: lessons not learnt" to any interested groups.

Waste knot, want not

Ash dieback, continued from page 3

WILDLIFE NOTES

Shortage of open space in the city, and a proposed increase in tree planting, led me to look for other potential patches of land. Japanese knotweed plantations. At best they provide cover, mulch and short-term carbon capture, but mainly suppress other flora which is more useful. In a dry season they are an exciting target for arsonists and the knotweed even survives this treatment, which gives an indication of its resilience. Despite this the task was tackled!

During the winter the roots, sizeable stumps, dug up surprisingly easily.



This was probably a feature of the loose topsoil on a chalk rubble subsoil (an old railway embankment). Left on the surface, (it is illegal and impractical to remove the plant material from the site) the roots were exposed to the winter weather. By mid-spring the results could be seen; strong shoots of knotweed standing 2m

tall. Obviously root pruning has an invigorating effect. Still, all was not lost.

The re-growth was coming from the old stumps, which lifted easily from the soil. New root growth from the old stumps was minimal and these were piled up to dry out. New growth from the remaining roots is weaker so, hopefully, repeating this routine may control the pest and allow the establishment of native species. We'll see.

David Longthorn

The tender shoots of knotweed can be used as a vegetable, or so I'm told, so want not.

Illustration courtesy of <http://kalipso-busybee.blogspot.co.uk/2011/03/read-weed-part-ii-battle-lost.html>

Of course, a major Chalara epidemic would mean that ash could not sensibly be used for planting until some resistant strains have been bred. The scientists are hoping that there may be some latent immunity in the ash population. This is why surveyors and volunteers are encouraged not only to spot diseased trees, but also to record apparently healthy ash trees in the centre of infected areas.

What to look for

So, what can be done in the short term? Well, not a lot, apart from keeping a good eye out for Chalara symptoms. These should be noticeable by this time of year, being wilting of top shoots, blackening and crisping of leaves, bark lesions or cancers on the stem, and staining of wood underneath. If you think you have spotted the disease please check the Forestry Commission symptoms video and guide before using their Tree Alert form to report the sighting as soon as possible. (See their website for details, including the 'Ashtag' scheme, which works with mobile phone links).

Owners are not required to take any action unless served with a Plant Health Notice. The only current limitations apply to transport of ash plants or timber to and fro from woodland sites, and plant nurseries and garden centres. **Chalara spores are probably windborne; it is therefore likely that felling and burning of trees will be ineffective and is not recommended. However, owners can help to prevent the spread of the disease by collecting up and burning, burying or composting the fallen leaves.**

There are no particular precautions to take when visiting woods.

For more information, especially if you are the owner of a tree and seeking help, go to the Forestry Commission website: www.plant.health@forestry.gov.uk

East Riding and Hull Councils also produce information sheets, and there is a leaflet from the Woodland Trust: www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/treedisease

Jon Capel

have for supporting people with a learning disability and also working with the community.

Please contact Sam Chegwin at: samchegwin@case4life.org or call on: 01482 609030.

Beverley FoE

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

GREEN DRINKS: informal discussions every 13th of each month at the Green Dragon Pub, Saturday Market Place, Beverley. All welcome.

What's going on?

News from local green groups

Black & Ethnic Minority Environmental Network

Environmental groups are often noticeably lacking in black and ethnic minority members. So it was good to attend the setting up of the Black and Ethnic Minority Environmental Network at the Community Enterprise Centre on Cottingham Road on 17 May. The need for jobs and allotments were the main concerns. For more information email dawda@bameen.org.uk, and visit the website: www.bameen.org.uk

Land Army

Time Bank in partnership with **Food4Hull** are setting up a Land Army. More and more people are developing an interest in growing—whether this is veg or flowers. We have lots of green space across the city and the council are making it easier for small groups of people to come together to claim and work the land. The land army will be the SWAT team which helps people get

going. We are developing lots of ideas for projects from allotment skills exchange to helping older people maintain their own gardens and perhaps use some space to grow food.

Our first **Land Army meeting** will be on Tues 30 July 7.30pm at Pearson Park Hotel. Contact kate@timebankhullandeastriding.co.uk

Tel: 01482 494785

TimeBank Drop Ins

Sign up, socialise, set up exchanges.

Cottingham: Kristoff's, 140 Hallgate, 1 & 15 Aug, 2-4pm.

Newland Ave: Relax, 7 & 21 Aug, 4-6pm.

Grow with CASE

invite any interested persons to their allotment Open Day on 2nd August 2013. They would like to show you around their multi-award winning allotment (eg overall winners of Hull in Bloom 2012) and to share with you the vision they

RECYCLING UNLIMITED NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

RECYCLING UNLIMITED ARE LOOKING
FOR VOLUNTEERS TO HELP OUT
IN ALL OF THEIR DEPARTMENTS

They need:

- ▶ People in retail for the three shops on Newland Avenue, and a new one opening on Chanterlands Avenue.
- ▶ They also need drivers and helpers for transport for collecting donated items and delivering sold items.
- ▶ People to help in the woodworking shop producing garden furniture.
- ▶ People to help at their two horticultural sites.

Full supervision is provided.

RECYCLING UNLIMITED PROVIDES HELP TO
PEOPLE RECOVERING FROM MENTAL HEALTH
PROBLEMS BY PROVIDING SUPPORTIVE
WORK EXPERIENCE AND TRAINING.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE E-MAIL
recycling.unlimited@yahoo.co.uk

OR GO TO THE WEBSITE:
www.recyclingunlimited.co.uk

Transition Hull

One of the ideas behind the Transition movement is that small actions, at the individual or local community level, can have an impact. Just published is Rob Hopkins' latest book, *The Power of Just Doing Stuff* (£8.99 from www.greenbooks.co.uk, free delivery) which explores just this—how local action can change the world.

Transition Hull has been going for 4 years or so now, and I can't say we've changed the world, but I think we've had an impact—not least in the Boulevard area where we believe our initial work on the Constable Street Field has led to the setting up of a Friends of Constable Street group to develop the site as a community amenity, with the support of the council and a number of other organisations such as Groundworks, the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and the Hessle Road Network.

Much of what we do is aimed at increasing our knowledge and awareness of the green agenda, with film showings and speakers. We had a recent talk about the Green Prosperity project in East Hull where engagement with the local community is seeking to improve people's lives by reducing energy bills, supporting sustainable transport, promoting waste reduction and recycling, and enabling growing of food and cooking. The creation of an Eco house will be an eventual outcome of the project.

Also interesting was a presentation by Lush handmade cosmetics, where we learnt about 'naked' products where no packaging is involved—not just soap, but also shampoo, conditioner and handcream can be purchased in solid chunks. Paraben-free too.

Coming up in the autumn we have a programme of talks where some speakers have been arranged in conjunction with Hull Friends of the Earth and we hope that the talks are well supported.

AUTUMN TALKS

Mon 9 Sept From Chernobyl to Fukushima

Susie Greaves on the ongoing impact of nuclear accidents

Mon 21 Oct The Woodland Trust

Alan Hunton on ancient woodland, biodiversity and woodland creation

Mon 11 Nov Permaculture

Lausanne Tranter on Permaculture principles and examples of their use

Talks are **free** and start at 7.30 pm, Boulevard Village Hall, Hull HU3 3EJ, with refreshments and discussion afterwards.

Jenny Parsons

<http://www.transitionhull.co.uk/>

Help get those bikes to Africa

This year's container loading day is on **Monday 23 September**, 8.00am–1.00 pm. We have 400+ bikes to load into a 40' shipping container in Marlborough Avenue, Hull. I am looking for volunteers to:

- ▶ Push bikes from the lock-ups out onto the Avenue, a leisurely, meditative experience!
- ▶ Lift bikes from the road onto the container using a series of large work platforms as steps. Those with sound backs only need apply!
- ▶ Someone to organise and serve drinks and snacks for about twenty people.
- ▶ A first aider.

We will have a small team of 'bike stackers' in the container stacking bikes. If you know of anyone who is strong, has stamina and is able to work under pressure, please put them in contact with me.

Last year was great fun and we all finished with a great feeling of achievement! This year should be a little warmer (September rather than October) and less standing around (we will be emptying lock-ups as the bikes are being loaded.)

Please make a note of this date now! And let me know if you want to help out—or if you know of anyone else that can help out.

The project is also looking for people willing to contribute £2 a month towards the bike storage costs.

Chris Jarrell

Project Organiser, Avenues Bicycle Project

www.avenuesbicycleproject.org

To volunteer or donate bikes or spare parts telephone or text: 07715 307942

Let's go Sky Ride a bike!

Following on from the success of previous years, Hull City Council and its partners are pleased to announce Sky Ride is coming back to Hull.

Last year Sky Ride Hull attracted 8,000 people to get on their bikes around the city centre route, which is closed to other traffic. There are lots of things for family groups to do, and experts from Halfords are on hand to help with any problems you may have with your bike.

Sky Ride Hull will take place in the city centre on **Sunday 18 August** starting at 10am. You can just turn up and join in anywhere along the route at any time, but they like people to register so that they can plan the event and keep you informed.

More details from www.goskyride.com

There are lots of other local rides organised during the rest of the year too—in groups, with a buddy, women only rides and those for people with disabilities.



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 Please note: subs are due by 1 April each year	
Name (Mr/Mrs/Ms)		I enclose:	
Address		Membership or subscription fee (£5 waged, £2 unwaged)	£
		Donation	£
Postcode		Total	£
Telephone		<i>Please make cheques payable to :</i> Hull Friends of the Earth	
Email			

WHY NOT PAY BY STANDING ORDER?

We encourage you to pay your subscription by annual Standing Order. This prevents you from forgetting to pay and saves us sending reminders. But because of problems with fraud we are no longer printing the form here. Please contact Sue (details below) if you want to pay by Standing Order.

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 FoE membership

SUBS WERE DUE FOR 2013 BY 1 APRIL

Thanks to everyone who paid their 2013 Hull FoE subs.

If you are a national Friends of the Earth member you do need to pay separately to be a Local Group member.

Subs remain at **£2 unwaged and £5 waged**—what good value!

And if you are inclined to forget, please take out a Standing Order (*see above*).

We welcome those donations!

At this year's Hull FoE AGM in April our accounts showed that we spent more than our income last year. This was partly because we made less profit from the Green Fair than usual, and partly because we bought some one-off items such as a gazebo. We think we can do better from the Green Fair this year, now that we are more familiar with the Prospect Centre venue. Also we do have some reserves. We know times are hard for some of our members, **so we decided to keep the membership fees at the same level of £5 waged and £2 unwaged**. Many of our members are very generous and give us a donation on top of their membership fee; if you can spare a bit extra we really appreciate it. It all helps our campaigning efforts and to keep you informed through ECO.

Food or (bio)fuel? continued from page 1

food production into fuel will deepen the hardship for many people.

Secondly, we are concerned that demand for biofuels crops that are not foodstuffs will cause land use change. Food crops will be displaced to grow biofuels, and new land will be taken into cultivation in order to grow food. This will increase greenhouse gas emissions – the opposite of what was intended for biofuels. More realistic carbon accounting for this Indirect Land Use Change (ILUC) effect was proposed by NGOs last year with penalty factors. However it seems that in the draft European

Commission proposal coming up for review, only the reporting of land use is required, rather than control measures. We ask that you influence this to account for the real climate impacts of biofuels by introducing mandatory ILUC factors.

We believe it is the European Parliament's responsibility to put an end to the unintended consequences of Europe's biofuels policy."

The outcome

The outcome on 10 July was that the Environment Committee voted in favour of a cap that only up to 5.5% of fuels can be biofuels made from crops. They also

supported a call for Indirect Land Use Change (ILUC) penalty factors in the carbon accounting of biofuels that lead to ILUC. This outcome was relatively good in the circumstances and our lobbying certainly played a part. However, the full EU Parliament will be lobbied hard by the biofuel industry and we can expect a far more pro-biofuel approach when they vote in September.

All this is, of course, particularly relevant in our area, given the plethora of existing and proposed biofuel industries.

Sue Jolliffe

Share your news?

Hull ECO welcomes news and views of all things environmental in Hull and East Yorkshire. **Deadlines are the first Tuesday in January, April, July, October.** Please send to **Hilary (details below)**. **Offers of help to deliver newsletters in your area are very welcome!**

HULL FRIENDS OF THE EARTH - CONTACTS

Coordinator	Sue Jolliffe, 47 Kingsway, Cottingham HU16 5BB	Tel: (01482) 845958	Email: sue@jolliffe.karoo.co.uk
Newsletter	Hilary Byers, 170 Victoria Avenue, Hull HU5 3DY	Tel: (01482) 445747	Email: hilary@amskaya.karoo.co.uk
Web	www.hfoe.org.uk		Email: jolliffe@jolliffe.karoo.co.uk