



DIARY DATES

Tue 5 February 7.30pm

HFOE meeting, Recycling Unlimited 151 Newland Avenue

Tue 5 March 7.30pm

HFOE meeting, Recycling Unlimited 151 Newland Avenue

Fri 22 March 11.30-2 pm

Energising England Event Albemarle Centre, Ferensway

Tue 2 April 7.30pm

HFOE AGM, Recycling Unlimited 151 Newland Avenue

Tue 7 May 7.30pm

HFOE meeting, Recycling Unlimited 151 Newland Avenue

Mon 27 May

Avenues Bicycle Project sponsored Bike Ride to York (see p5)

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.

Hull Transition

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

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Energising Hull

The Energy Bill, which entered the Committee stage in January, left a lot to be desired. Despite Cameron's promise to be the 'greenest government ever' the Coalition continues to dither about renewables, seemingly under the influence of MPs with anti-windfarm views.

In Hull and East Yorkshire we know better than most the potential for creating local jobs that would result from a firm commitment to renewable energy industries, particularly offshore wind. This is why Hull has been chosen for a major conference bringing together Non Governmental Organisations and local firms who hope to benefit from a greater commitment to renewables.

"Energising England—Building a Low Carbon Economy on the Humber" takes place on Friday 22 March 2013 from 11.30 to 2pm, at the Albemarle Centre on Ferensway (next to Hull Truck Theatre).

Among those attending will be Alan Johnson MP and Andy Atkins, Executive Director of Friends of the Earth.

The event is free and open to all, but we particularly want to attract local firms, large or small, who hope to benefit, either directly or indirectly, from a greater investment in renewable energy and a low carbon future. If you are linked with any relevant firms please pass on this message. Bookings can be made through:

www.eventbrite.co.uk/contact-organiser?eid=5209333256 or via Friends of the Earth or Hull FoE (details back page).

Nearer the time we will be looking for people to take part in publicity activities and helping as stewards etc.

Meanwhile, help to keep the pressure up by **signing and returning the enclosed postcards** before the beginning of March, to keep MPs minds focussed on the need for Clean British Energy. FoE tells us:

- ▶ New onshore wind power is cheaper than nuclear power.
- ▶ Our solar industry is a great British success story, now employing 29,000 people.



Andy Atkins, FoE PHOTO: Lee-ann Williams

- ▶ Developing offshore wind could create 66,000 UK jobs by 2020.
- ▶ We are already a world leader in wave and tidal power;- technology and expertise we could export.

Among the shortcomings of the Energy Bill as it is at present is that there is no commitment to decarbonise the electricity supply sector. We need businesses and the environmental movement to lobby together for a firm target of decarbonisation by 2030. The Bill also retains the dominance of the Big Six energy companies, who as we know can virtually dictate energy prices. Smaller energy companies and community renewables schemes have been establishing projects subsidised under the Renewables Obligation, but under the Bill this would be phased out after 2014 and a more complex system introduced which will tend to favour the big companies.

(Information from FoE. See also "A Proven Solution: How to grow renewables with a Fixed Feed-In Tariff" by Dr David Toke of University of Birmingham)

Hilary Byers and Lee-ann Williams

eco CHIT CHAT

Green Fair

'Great venue' and 'Best ever' were among the accolades ringing in our ears after last November's Green Fair at the Prospect Centre. By the shopping centre's calculations we had nearly 2,000 people visiting, about 10 times the number of visitors at our previous venue, though with plenty of space it didn't feel crowded. Profit for Hull FoE was modest, but we learnt a lot from the experience.

I'm told the TimeBank young catering trainees greatly enjoyed the opportunity to run a real café and we certainly enjoyed the excellent food.

Special thanks too to the musicians and Raving Maes Morris dancers. I think we are all going to want to be back there again if possible. The Prospect

Centre has recently changed ownership.



The Time Bank kitchen gang cook up a feast for the Green Fair

Friends to bees

Hull University Students (HUSSO) are hoping to get help from FoE to establish a bee-friendly wildflower meadow within the university grounds. More news of this to come.

Organic+ at Humber Market

Humber Street Market takes place on the 3rd Sunday of every month at Fruit, 62-63 Humber Street Hull. Stalls include organic and fairtrade products, vintage clothing and much more.

Yorkshire Energy Partnership is a fast growing network of businesses, small and large, which are aiming for Investors in the Environment (iE) status by reducing energy consumption and waste. Firms signed up so far include Yorkshire Water, Ikea and City of York Council. For more information contact Emma Davies on iie@energypartnership.org.uk.

National Grid's preferred route for a proposed carbon capture pipeline, which would be buried, would run from Stainforth, via Drax, passing close to Market Weighton and on to Barmston on the coast where a pumping station would pump the CO2 for storage offshore.

(source: Y&H Branch of Royal Town Planning Institute)

New railway track

Transport secretary Patrick McLoughlin has given permission for a new stretch of railway track near Doncaster. The line is intended to enable slow moving freight trains to travel directly from the Humber ports to the Aire Valley power stations, avoiding the mainline. (source: Y&H Branch of RTPI)

Motorists—be cycle-aware!

Get cycle awareness into the driving test. A petition to the government seeks to make changes to the driving test to make cycle awareness an essential core part of driver training, instead of the peripheral role it has at present. Teaching and testing would emphasise how much space to give cyclists and how to safely overtake them.

See <http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/44059>

Sustainable Tuna

If you are confused about which types of tuna are harvested sustainably, information is available on Marinet's website:

<http://www.marinet.org.uk/campaign-article>.

Of the types generally found in tins, skipjack tends to be the least endangered.

Hilary Byers



Graham Dunlop tells us that The Rainforest Foundation supplies GPS equipment and training to enable indigenous people to assert their rights, at law, against aggressive logging, mining, ranching and plantation operations. To extend the work of the Rainforest Foundation call 020 7485 0193; <http://www.rainforestfoundationuk.org>

Hull Friends of the Earth AGM

Tuesday, 2 April 2013

7.30 pm

Recycling Unlimited, 151 Newland Avenue

The Annual General Meeting is your opportunity to take an active role in the group and have a say in what the group should be doing and how.

If you are interested, please come along to a meeting before then for a chat with the 'regulars' about what sort of role you might play.

To vote at the AGM you need to be a paid up member of Hull FoE.

Hull FoE membership

Thanks to everyone who paid their Hull FoE subs in 2012.

SUBS ARE DUE FOR 2013 BY 1 APRIL PLEASE

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** (until the AGM on 2 April, at least)—what good value!

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

Ash dieback—how can we help?

You doubtless have seen or heard about this in the media in the last 6 months. The extensive media coverage seems to have generated a bit of alarm, so the aim of this article is to try and put it into context for residents in this area.

Chalara dieback of ash is the latest in a plethora of plant diseases imported into this country through the horticultural and/or timber trades. Ash thus joins elm (already decimated), and beech, chestnut, alder, oak, cypress and larch which are all threatened by one fungus or another - and that doesn't include those affected by insect pests!

Ash trees, particularly older ones, have historically suffered dieback due to other factors such as root damage, drought and old age, but do not usually die suddenly. This should not be confused with dieback caused by the fungus called *Chalara* (*Chalara fraxinea*) which seems to have been imported on young ash trees in 2011/12.

Chalara dieback of ash is a serious disease causing leaf loss and crown dieback in affected trees, and usually leads to death in younger 'victims'. The symptoms are especially noticeable in young trees in spring and summer, and are wilting of top shoots, blackening and crisping of leaves, bark lesions/cankers on the stem, and staining of wood underneath.

Ash trees suffering with *Chalara* infection have been found widely across Europe since 1992. In February last year, it was found in young trees sent to a nursery in the south-east. Since then it has been confirmed in a number of locations in Great Britain: mostly in Norfolk, Suffolk, Kent and other south-eastern counties, with a small scattering further north and west. The total of confirmed UK findings on 4th January 2013 was 339. Of these, there are only three suspected cases in the East Riding, and none within the Hull boundary.

Ash, of course, is a major tree in the East Riding, as it tolerates a wide range of soils. Particularly since we lost our elms to disease in the 1970's and '80's, it has become the dominant tree in hedgerows, shelterbelts and woodlands, and thus its potential loss could have an enormous effect on our landscape. Because of this importance, the issue was recently discussed at the Steering Group meeting of HEYwoods, our regional tree and woodland project. It was agreed to keep a watching brief, and if necessary to consider advice to affected owners about alternatives to ash for planting.

We are obviously still learning about *Chalara*, how it affects trees, and working out both how bad it will be and how we can tackle it. This article has probably raised as many questions as it has answered: does it affect only Common

Ash? How far has it got now? Do we plant only other sorts? For the answers to these, and any new information, see the next issue of ECO.

At present, you can probably best help by being a 'Chalara spotter', learning what *Chalara dieback* looks like, and reporting suspected trees to the Forestry Commission, on a 'Tree alert' form on the website (details below).



If you think you have spotted the disease, please check the Forestry Commission symptoms video and symptoms guide, and their guide to recognising ash trees, before using their Tree Alert form.

For more information, especially if you are a landowner seeking help, go to the Forestry Commission website:

<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/chalara>

Email: plant.health@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Apart from this, there are printed information sheets available from Hull and East Riding Councils, and a leaflet from the Woodland Trust:

<http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/treedisease>

Or if you just can't wait for the next issue, ring the author on (01482) 655133.

Jon Capel

Country walks

If your new year's resolution is to get more exercise, you might want to join **North Bank Forum's Country Walks** once a month.

Their walks are 6-8 miles and routes are sometimes wet and boggy, but rest places are provided, as is transport. Cost £4.

Some locations are **Rise and Hatfield** on Friday 22 February

and **North Newbald** on Friday 15 March.

More information from Carl Warcup on 01482 318008

East Yorkshire Botany Club

Talks coming up soon:

Sat 16 Feb

Martin Lichfield on 'Spurn Point'

Sat 23 March

AGM then Jackie Guthrie on 'Orchids of Crete'

All meetings take place at Trinity Methodist Church, corner Newland Avenue/Cottingham Road. Start 7.30pm, entrance £2.

Gabrielle, EYBC

Field Trips Organiser

Become a Groundwork Hull volunteer

Groundwork in Hull are looking to create a data base of volunteers for future environmental projects. If you have knowledge or existing skills or want to develop skills and have the time and enthusiasm to make a positive difference to your community then contact Groundwork in Hull on 01482 216188 ■

Get fit—join the Green Gym!

What better way to get some exercise and make a difference for wildlife than to join in with **Yorkshire Wildlife Trust's Green Gym** activities at Bransholme and Longhill. Activities coming up include:

Woodland and Pond Management at Noddle Hill—a great winter work out and chance to learn about nature conservation; Sat 2 February

Winter Tree ID—learn to identify trees in winter at Loglands Nature Reserve with YWT's arboriculturalist; Sat 16th February

Spring Tidy—help with a clear up on Fordyke Green; Sat 2 March

Get Cracking—family Easter Egg hunt and activities in Loglands; Wed 27 March

Booking is essential for all these activities.

Contact Fiona Weir on:

fiona.weir@ywt.org.uk or
01482 441013

Car Club for Hull?

A car when you need it, but don't pay for it when you don't



A car club allows people and businesses to use cars in a much smarter way. It offers an alternative to individual car ownership that's both cheaper and greener.

I try to be green and really don't fancy splashing out on something as expensive as a car that spends most of its time sitting on the drive, but there's no doubt they're invaluable on occasion. Visiting that place in the country way off public transport, or returning after the last train? Collecting that piece of furniture from the other side of town? Day trip out with visiting relatives? As members of a car club we managed all those things without ever having owned a car.

Car clubs offer a whole range of benefits that include:

- ▶ **Convenience** - Access to a clean, well maintained car without the hassle of ownership such as MOT, servicing, repairs, depreciation and parking.
- ▶ **Save money** - Members who drive less than 6-8,000 miles a year could save up to £3,500 a year.

▶ **Fewer cars** - Car clubs mean that householders can, and do, reduce the number of vehicles they own.

▶ **Complements public transport** - If you spent all your money buying your own car, you have to use it a lot to get you your money's worth, and can no longer afford hefty train tickets. As a car club member who

pays for car use by the journey, you can choose the most appropriate transport for each journey. Trip to the DIY store for bulky shopping? Car club. Visiting relatives in another city? Beat the congestion and take the train.

- ▶ **Mileage reduction** - Households in a car club tend to be relatively low mileage households.

There are now car clubs in over 40 towns and cities across the UK, with new ones popping up all the time. They're well established in countries like Denmark where most of the population live within a few minutes' walk of a car club.

How it works

We were members of a highly successful car club set up just a few years ago in east Oxford. It's part of Co-wheels, a not-for-profit Social Enterprise.

It was really easy, and works like this:

- 1 check availability and book online, with as little as a minute's notice;
- 2 use your swipe card to unlock the doors and drive away; return the car to its bay when you're done;
- 3 the cost is an hourly charge plus a mileage charge, and appears on your monthly bill.

Get in touch

I think it would be great to see a car club in Hull.

The first thing is to gauge interest, so if please get in touch if you are at all interested—even if you think you might only use a car club for a few hours a month; plenty of members don't drive at all some months.

So, if you're interested please email me with your location, and perhaps a rough estimate of the number of hours a month you think you might use a car club. We can then look at whether there's enough demand for a car club to be successful, the best areas to locate cars, and whether to take things further.

Richard Howarth

richardjhowarth@gmail.com
www.carplus.org.uk

Make it better

This is the title of a new Friends of the Earth campaign to require large firms to be aware of, and disclose, the sources of their raw materials and the effects of their production on the environment.

Focussing on mobile phones made by Samsung and Apple, FoE draws attention to the effect that tin mining has on the Indonesian island of Banka. Effects include poisoning of the soil, pollution of the sea damaging coral reefs and ruining the local fishing industry, and the creation of pools of stagnant water providing breeding grounds for mosquitos.

Nearly half of all tin mined is used as solder in phones and electronic gadgets. Samsung and Apple are by no means the only brands causing problems but as market leaders they make over half of all phones sold, so if they were to be more aware of their supply chain and clean up their act they would make a real difference.

One answer has to be to make phones which last longer; on average people change their phones every 18 months ■

Hilary Byers

An easy birdfeeder

- 1 Take an open pinecone;
- 2 Tie a piece of string to the stalk end so it can be hung up;
- 3 Press lard into the cone (any sticky fat should do);
- 4 Roll in bird seed;
- 5 Apply another layer of fat and seed;
- 6 Hang and watch the birds gratefully visit.

In freezing weather remember the birds need water as well as food.



Info from Lesley Longworth on Pearson Park Wildlife Garden Facebook Page. She got it from Yorkshire Wildlife Trust



HUMBER FOREST SCHOOL HAS BEEN RUNNING FOR FOUR YEARS IN THE HUMBER REGION. WE OFFER OUTDOOR LEARNING FOR PEOPLE OF ALL AGES. FOR THE MOST PART SCHOOL GROUPS VISIT THE BEAUTIFUL ANCIENT WOODLAND AT MEAUX ABBEY FARM, THAT WE CURRENTLY WORK IN, FOR THE DAY.

For young children, a typical day's activities would involve exploring the wood, maybe on a bear hunt or following a trail of breadcrumbs, tree climbing, making something from materials found in the wood and cooking over the fire. We also have our snack (hot chocolate and biscuits) and our lunch sitting around the fire. With older children and adults we teach the use of edged hand tools including knives, billhooks, loppers and bow saws and make a variety of objects, ranging from a musical instrument to furniture.

The ethos behind Forest School is one of managed risk with participants encouraged to assess risks for themselves. We also encourage familiarity with the natural world and respect for the forest flora and fauna. We continue in rain or shine, teaching participants how to erect temporary shelters if needed. Talking to a parent recently she had been impressed when on a trip to a theme park her primary school aged daughter had suggested they go on the water ride last. Her reasoning was that she had learnt at forest school that getting wet was ok but it was better if you stayed dry to begin with!

Our activities are very child-led and although we always have a plan for the day it often ends up being something

else! We base our intervention on the idea of a flow state. That is that if a participant is completely absorbed by an activity we know they are learning. Only when someone seems detached from an activity do we get involved and suggest alternative things to do. Ideally Forest School is long term with children attending on a regular basis and increasing their skills each visit. We have groups who visit once each term and some groups are now on their third year of termly visits. These children are very confident in the wood and believe anything can be created with woodland materials, tools and a little imagination.

Forest schools are springing up all over Britain. Originally taken from a Scandinavian idea they have expanded from the south west. All school children in Wales now receive at least one term of Forest School. Research into Forest School has shown a number of benefits including improvement in communication and social skills. Our most frequent feedback is from teachers who have seen problematic children in a new light as they embraced all that Forest School had to offer and carried the enthusiasm back into the classroom work on Forest School.

As well as school visits we have run sessions for brownies, scouts and church groups. We also offer level 2 forest school assistant training and are planning a holiday club this summer.

If you would like to know more about Humber Forest School please do get in touch with me:

caroline.keam@humberforestschool.org
or on 07962 209354.

Caroline Keam



Another way: the Avenues Bicycle Project



Avenues bikes on their way to villages in Ghana

As you read this, the first batch of nearly 300 donated bikes from Hull should be making their way to northern Ghana to help children attend school and adults provide education and health care.

Chris Jarrell tells us that the bikes are not all just given away. That would create a dependency culture and undermine local businesses. About half the bikes are made available after people have paid a small fee to attend a bike programme which includes a maintenance class and access to a village mechanic and tools. The fee helps to cover shipping costs, pay the mechanic, and subsidise free places for school children. The other bikes are sold to local bike shops in order to support employment opportunities. For more about this approach to aid see: Dambisa Moyo's book: *Dead Aid: Why Aid is Not Working and How There is Another Way for Africa*.

The next batch of bikes is already being collected. As well as in the Avenues and around Hull, there are now people

collecting bikes around Drifffield, Beverley, Bridlington and the villages west of Hull. **Sponsors are also sought** who are willing to donate £2.50 a month towards the cost of storage for the bikes.

Date for your diary: Monday, 27 May.

Avenues Bicycle Project's major fund raising event this year will be a sponsored bike ride from Westbourne Avenue Fountain to York Minster, via Beverley and National Cycle Route 66. They are hoping to raise £500. If you would like to ride (slow and fast group, + relay group) or provide back-up, contact Chris. There will be a picnic lunch at Londesborough on the day for everyone to meet up socially.

To donate a bike or spare parts or tools, or to contact the project, telephone or text: 07715307942

Email: avenuesbicycleproject@gmail.com

It never rains

The recent persistent rain left the **YWT tree nursery** on Newland Allotments looking like a pond and the soil like thick soup, still work goes on in welly boots. Root pruning means lifting the tree and cutting through the main roots to encourage a more fibrous root system. This makes final replanting and establishment of the tree easier and quicker; it's also a chance to tidy up in the nursery. The ash saplings got this treatment, but is it worthwhile? *And are there any other problems on their way?*

Talking about travel, the post-Christmas period provided the chance for a Sustrans bicycle ride to Hornsea along route 66. The effects of the heavy rain left a thick muddy patch up my back and a damp posterior, indicating some deficiency in the rear mud-guard. The plan to create a path along Holderness Drain from Saltshouse Road to the Withernsea cycle path is progressing. This will form part of the **Northern Arc path** linking Kingswood to the Humber, coming out alongside the Green Port. Another proposal is for a path linking Oak Road to the city centre along the route of Barmston Drain! **Yes!**

Look out for the **new season of out-door activities with YWT, starting with** hedge laying at Noddle Hill. A chance to swing the axe.

WILDLIFE NOTES David Longthorn

What's going on? News from local green groups

East Hull Community Farm

Jenny Parsons sends us the following news from East Hull Community Farm, which is at Barham Road, Bilton Grange Estate, Hull HU9 4EE, Tel: 01482 783990

Hens in need of good homes

I've been told that the farm has ex-intensive hens in need of good homes in exchange for a donation. Several Hull Transition members have become successful chicken keepers over the last couple of years, and this is an opportunity to develop your self sufficiency.

<http://www.digforvictory.com/yorkshire-and-the-humber/kingston-upon-hull/hull/east-hull-community-farm/>

Food 360 New Project

Probe is starting a new project based at East Hull Community Farm. This will create the Food 360 Market Garden, with the building of raised beds and a herb wheel. Anyone wishing to come along and help with growing vegetables is welcome, either as a means of learning to grow your own, or to swap your time for some of the produce later next year.

There will be an **Orchard Planting Day**, date yet to be confirmed, when 50 trees will be planted to create a new orchard and a small nut coppice.

For further information contact Adrian Fisher at Probe adrianf@probeltd.co.uk or by ringing 01482 782400 (Mon to Wed)

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.

Transition Hull in 2013

Transition Hull had another active year last year— see 'What we did in 2012' on our website at <http://www.transitionhull.co.uk/> Coming up in 2013 are:

- **An Introduction to Permaculture** two-day introductory course, a joint initiative between Transition Hull and the WEA (Workers' Educational Association). It will take place in the spring and will be held over a

Saturday and Sunday at the Boulevard Village Hall. Ring 07816 141169 for further details. For more about permaculture see the Permaculture Association <http://www.permaculture.org.uk/>

- **Regular monthly meetings**, usually on the 2nd Monday of the month at Boulevard Village Hall with a variety of different speakers. We hope the spring schedule will include speakers from Hull and EY Timebank, the Woodland Trust, Lush fresh handmade cosmetics and Fareshares food redistribution charity.
- After the success of our autumn film programme we will continue with **film showings at Lonsdale Community Centre** so keep an eye on our website for what's coming up next. We'll be showing *Seeds of Freedom* at some stage but if you want to view it on the web straight away it's at <http://seedsoffreedom.info/>
- At our brainstorming session before Christmas members identified several new areas they were interested in exploring – Forest Gardens, Green Cleaning Products and Green Electricity Switching.

To keep in contact, check our website or facebook page, join our mailing list, or email lausannet@yahoo.co.uk or jenny@transitionhull.co.uk

Richard Howarth tells us:

Greenpeace Yorkshire East is being revived in 2013!

Current campaigns include:

- 🌐 Save the Arctic— declare a global sanctuary;
- 🌐 Join the Rebellion and turn VW away from the Dark Side ;
- 🌐 Be a Fisherman's Friend—fix the EU Common Fisheries Policy to support sustainable fishing.

Join us campaigning in and around Hull.

For details of events and monthly city centre meetings see: www.greenpeace.org.uk/groups/yorkshire-east or you can email them: greenpeaceyorkshireeast@gmail.com

Dawn of a new Humber

I had the pleasure of attending The Freedom Centre's **Dawn of a New Humber Conference** as part of the Humber Expo Week 2012. The blurb described the event as 'examining Hull and the changes the region needs to embrace in its growing green agenda,' with speakers from industry and a key note speech from Lord John Prescott.

It was introduced by Cllr Martin Mancey, — Hull City Council Cabinet Portfolio holder for Environment/Transport & Emergency Planning.

Councillor Mancey spoke of the changes in Hull over the last year, beginning with lots of hope and ending with present issues of unemployment and the issues surrounding the government's energy policy. He explained about the Green City Group and the Green City Plan and the aim to develop a strategy for future policy for the city for the next 10 to 20 years.

Lord Prescott spoke in his inimitable fashion about the phases the city had gone through so far on its path towards becoming a green city and how it had looked like being the centre of new investment for renewables in the UK. He spoke strongly about low carbon being the way forward and had little tolerance for the anti-wind lobby. He said it's the dark before the dawn. The government can't make its mind up about wind and can't decide what to do about the Green Investment Bank/Green Deal. 'Cameron no longer wants to be the Greenest government ever.' But uncertainty is killing us! He spoke about how Scotland was providing favourable conditions for the wind industry. Two points: we need a voice for Humberside, and how can we change the political direction.

Other speakers were:

Robert Bell—Archomai 'Job, Skills, Enterprise and the Green Agenda'.
www.archomai.co.uk

He pointed out that the issues we are facing are broader than just Siemens or wind energy and pointed out how

important it is that small and medium businesses become part of the mix. He travels widely as part of his work and said how far behind the city is with the use of IT and training. Needs to develop its links between creativity and industry.

Professor David Gibbs—University of Hull, 'Green Entrepreneurs: Opportunities and Obstacles'. Professor Gibbs spoke of the University's work with Environmental Management Services and studies that are being done with other green enterprises.

Robert Spence—Who Do I Speak to Next.com, Meeting the Delivery Challenges of Health and Social Care.
www.whodoispeaktonext.com

Robert Spence is part of a social enterprise linked with the incredible Green Prosperity project.

As an example, they looked at the mileage clocked up as part of delivering care to the city and planned a way to reduce it by using technology. A pilot scheme in Salford is saving 5 thousand miles a week in travel. They also plan to skill up the local community to help care for people at home.

Sam Pick—Renewables Network
www.renewablesnetwork.co.uk

Sam is the director of the successful Renewables Network. As the centre of the UK's —perhaps even the world's—largest infrastructure project (Round 3 offshore wind) he spoke of his frustration with the government and how we must maximise this once in a lifetime chance by building a momentum here that will make the Siemens opportunity more likely to happen. We need a centre of excellence like Aberdeen to help keep the skills base, and work on steady progress rather than concentrate on a Siemens fixation.

Charlie Spencer—Spencer Group 'Greener Business'.

www.thespencergroup.co.uk

Charlie Spencer spoke about why businesses should go green. His main contention was that 'your customers will demand it'. He explained sustainable standards such as ISO14064—Carbon Trust Standard for measuring and reducing greenhouse gasses.

Graham Ward—Stockbridge Technology Centre, 'Urban Farming: Producing food in cities with LED technology'.
www.stc-nyorks.co.uk

Graham Ward was highly entertaining and the only time I've heard the phrase 'sustainable intensification' in a reasonable context. His project in Selby entails growing vertical layers of crops under LEDs. May be worth a visit...

Jan Boyd—EMS. 'Green Prosperity—What it means to you. How working together we can work towards a Greener Community'.

It was a pleasure to meet and listen to Jan Boyd from Environmental Management Services on their recent incredible securing of £800,000 for Green Prosperity, an all-encompassing green project to be rolled out in January 2013. The project is based in two of the poorest areas in Hull: Southcoates and Longhill, and involves green home care, energy and waste reduction, supporting green enterprise, growing food, developing an eco home to be open to the public by retrofitting an empty property, and info and awareness campaigns including 12 road shows (the CHEF bus).

Many people echoed the points that Lord Prescott made that the government is dithering about its position on wind particularly but also renewables and that Alex Salmond is jumping up and down in Scotland to get the attention of the renewables industries. Councillor Mancey reaffirmed the council's commitment to a Green Plan.

Lee-ann Williams

Wind energy progress

One of the things opponents of wind turbines always bring up is the intermittent nature of the energy they produce. The idea is not new. The first commercial system used batteries, set up by Thomas Edison in New York City in the 1890s. A new system also uses batteries. The idea is an electricity grid composed of interconnected small-scale generation and storage systems which would function like an energy internet. The units which will store the watts will use a sodium-nickel chloride battery. More

units assembled means more watts stored. These new technologies are being actively encouraged by governments interested in energy security. Such governments put financing and policy mechanisms in place to support them. Examples are Korea, Germany and the US. Here in Britain, Highview Energy Storage has won awards from the Department of Energy and Climate Change and plans to build a commercial scale system this year. It looks like it's only a matter of time before energy storage will be a solved problem.

Another piece of wind energy news is the development of a bladeless turbine. A concave disk replaces the blades and is supposedly more efficient, quieter and not a threat to birds. It is also cheaper since blades and gearbox have been replaced with less expensive plastics, fabrics and a hydraulic motor. More tests are necessary but it looks promising.

As both these paragraphs show, technology is always advancing.

Haris Livas-Dawes

Info from Green Futures Magazine:
www.forumforthefuture.org/greenfutures



Hull Friends of the Earth

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Earthrise

Answers to Environmental Crossword No 5

by Chlodowig

In December 1968, Frank Borman, James Lovell and William Anders, aboard Apollo 8, became the first people ever to leave Earth orbit and go to the moon. They went round the moon but didn't land - the landing took place the following year. Anders said later:

"We came all this way to explore the moon, and the most important thing that we discovered was the earth."

They photographed earthrise over the moon and recited verses from Genesis to the world on Christmas Eve.



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