

DIARY DATES

Wed 1 May 7.45pm

Bat Walk, Pearson Park (see page 8)

Thurs 2 May

Food4Hull meeting (see page 4)

Sun 5 May

Dancing: Pickering Road Orchard (see page 2)

Tue 7 May 7.30pm

HFOE meeting, Recycling Unlimited 151 Newland Avenue

Tue 4 June 7.30pm

HFOE meeting, Recycling Unlimited 151 Newland Avenue

Avenues Bicycle Project

sponsored Bike Ride to York *postponed*.
Phone 07715307942 for details.

Thurs 27 June

Hitchcock's meal (see page 2)

Tue 2 July 7.30pm

HFOE meeting, Recycling Unlimited 151 Newland Avenue

Sun 7 and Sun 14 July

Avenues Open Gardens. Visit HFOE stall in Pearson Park Wildlife Garden

Tue 2 July 7.30pm

HFOE meeting, Recycling Unlimited 151 Newland Avenue

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PHOTO: Bill Rigby

'Mobile phone' Chris Upton with other Beverley FoE members campaigning against Samsung

Make it Better, Samsung!

Beverley FoE members were out in Beverley town centre on Saturday 6 April collecting signatures to lobby Samsung, as part of the 'Make it Better' campaign. The aim was to shame Samsung about the devastating damage being done to the island of Bangka and its people in Indonesia in the mining of tin to use in products such as mobile phones. The campaign has been successful; Samsung have pledged to work together with other companies and governments to improve the situation on Bangka.

There is a wider point to be made about the need for producers to be aware of their supply chains and how their raw materials are produced.

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

May in the Pickering Road Community Orchard

After such a long cold winter and late spring what about a bit of Maypole dancing to welcome spring and the new growing season! The Orchard welcomes you on **Sunday 5 May** from 12.00 noon to 3.00pm. There should be blossom and some wild flowers, the Raving Maes Dancers and the splendid 'obby 'oss, and there will be refreshments as well. The orchard is on the allotments at the end of Cranberry Way, but please park on the main Pickering Road away from the gates and residents' drives. Also, if anyone wishes to attend the AGM it will be at 10.00am on Thursday 16 May.

Veggie meal at Hitchcocks

Thursday 27 June 7.30pm. Tickets £20 from Hilary (see contact details back page). Profits in aid of creating a memorial garden to civilians at the National Picture Theatre (bombsite) on Beverley Road Hull. The theme could be 'wartime food'—could be better than it sounds!

Cornucopia Festival and Green Fair

at Burton Agnes on **Friday 27 and Saturday 28 September** 2013. Ticket sales are doing well; over 100 have already been sold. The Green Tent has doubled in size this year. More details from Shan Oakes on shan@voice.karoo.co.uk or 01482 862085.

Bike Courier Service

operates from Bob's Bikes on Beverley Road. Complete collection and delivery service, often faster than by motor vehicle. £3 per collection or delivery in Hull. Contact www.hullcyclecourier.co.uk or 07403379106

Avenues Bicycle Project

has a new drop off point for bicycles on Anlaby Road: The Quaker Meeting House on Bean Street. Please ring John Beardmore (Warden) on 327574 prior to dropping bikes off. They are well on their way to filling their next container with donated secondhand bikes to send to Ghana. Main contact is Chris Jarrell on 07715307942. avenuesbicycleproject@gmail.com

Hull4Funding

is a Hull City Council website helping community groups to find suitable funding for their projects. There is an advice section and you can receive updates on categories of grants you are interested in. It can be reached via www.hullcc.gov.uk/community&living/communityfundingandgrants/Hull4funding *East Riding Council has an equivalent called grantsnet.*

Landshare

Are you struggling with your garden or know of someone who is? Do you want to grow your own food but don't have a garden? Landshare brings together people who have a passion for home-grown food, connecting those who have land to share with those who need land for cultivating food. There is a demand for community growing in Hull. If you are in Hull and interested in joining, you can contact your local Area Team on 01482 300 300 or register your details directly on the Landshare website www.landshare.net/search/hull/ (Info from Community Network)

Recommended beaches

Hopefully, we are now getting some good enough weather to want to go to the beach, but which beaches have the cleanest water? The Marine Conservation Society looks at sampling data collected by UK environment agencies and local authorities during the previous summer to assess water quality.

Beaches in our area which meet their top 'Recommended' category included: Skegness, Mablethorpe Town, Cleethorpes, Withernsea, Tunstall, Hornsea, Skipsea, Danes Dyke Flamborough, Cayton Bay and Scarborough North Bay. The only local beach which failed to meet the minimum standard was Bridlington South Cliff Beach.

The Big Lunch

was started in 2009 by the Eden Project to encourage neighbours to get together, enjoy their local environment and build community spirit. It can be anything from a few neighbours sharing sandwiches in someone's front garden to a carnival that closes the whole street, with long tables and everyone bringing a dish. Last year 8.5 million people took part. This year the Big Lunch takes place on **Sunday 2 June**. If you fancy organising one there is lots of help, templates for invitations etc on www.thebiglunch.com

Living Streets

Help create safe, attractive and enjoyable streets by campaigning on the issues that matter in your local area. Living Streets works with local communities to improve local environments and get more people out walking. There don't seem to be any Living Streets groups in our area. If you fancy starting one, or you might want to make your residents' group or neighbourhood watch also into a Living Streets Group, there is more information on www.livingstreets.org.uk

Edible cutlery

Single-use knives, forks and spoons have their place when washing up is not possible, but plastic cutlery generates significant non-biodegradable waste. Two Indian entrepreneurs have started a unique green business—edible cutlery. **BK Environmental Innovations** offers forks, knives, spoons and chopsticks in 3 flavours (vanilla, strawberry and pineapple) and plans to expand the range. The cutlery is made of Sorghum flour known as Jowar—a traditional Indian product which is nutritious and drought resistant but farmers have struggled to market. www.nextbillion.net

STOP PRESS

If you live in Graham Stuart MP or David Davis MP's constituency please write to your MP and ask him to **support the inclusion of a 'decarbonisation target'**, in the Energy Bill currently going through Parliament. Most of our local MPs have already signed up, but we need enough MPs from across the parties to vote for a strong clean power target that will help tackle climate change and create thousands of green jobs. Look out for adverts in the local press and contact Sue (see back page) if you need help with wording the letter.

Growth of Hull's 'secret' gardens



David, Stefan and Lorna discuss how the students' garden can be made more attractive to pollinating insects

All over Hull, community groups are taking over bits of land and using them to grow things. Some are making raised beds for vegetables and fruit. Some are creating havens for wildlife. Still others are making play spaces or areas for quiet relaxation. Some are even doing all of these!

Often they are tucked away behind houses—secret gardens you could call them. Some are amazing and inspirational. Others are struggling a bit. ECO will feature some of them over the next few issues. Do you have a 'secret garden'? Go on, tell us your secret!

Sites near Hull University

In January Friends of the Earth were contacted by a Hull University Conservation Group who wanted to start a wildflower meadow to help bees. At about the same time we heard about land near the University (for security reasons we have been asked to keep its exact location a secret) where a garden had been started but, with students moving on, there was a struggle to find enough interested people to keep it going. It seemed obvious to bring the two ideas together. Volunteers will be needed.

Meanwhile on the University campus, students in the Conservation Group were constructing 'Bug Hotels' out of pallets and waste materials. These were the Ritz of the bug hotel world, and it will be interesting to see what pollinating insects are attracted.

More information from Khia Dobbinson
Conservation Volunteering Coordinator

hussoconservation@gmail.com



Hull University students build a 'bug hotel'. Suites available for all

PHOTOS: Hilary Byers

Ash dieback—how can we help? (PART 2)

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

New knowledge—hope for the future?

The flurry of press attention about this 'new' disease late last year captured the public interest. Since then, the plant scientists have been really busy with:

- ▶ some preliminary genetic testing;
- ▶ contact with continental colleagues to find out their experiences;
- ▶ follow-up surveys of plant nurseries and new planting sites, to see how

much stock has come into England via that route, and

- ▶ more extensive surveying for disease presence across a wider area of the UK.

It now seems that *Chalara* is probably the asexual form of a fungus (*Hymenoscyphus pseudoalbidus*), the sexual stage of which is a previously known benign fungus apparently common on ash trees throughout Europe. Ash trees in Europe have died from a disease since at least 1992, and although *Chalara* was only formally described in 2006, it has obviously been around for longer, at least

on the continent. The start of the British outbreak seems to have been at Leicester last February, on young trees imported from the continent.

Other facts discovered from research and survey:

- ▶ spores are produced from infected dead leaves during June to September;
- ▶ spore dispersal on the wind is just possible from mainland Europe;
- ▶ trees need a high dose of spores to become infected;
- ▶ there is a low probability of dispersal on clothing or animals and birds;

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The 'end of the beginning' for sustainable fisheries

The MEPs' vote to reform the Common Fisheries Policy is being widely presented as a victory for campaigners who have argued long and hard for better protection for our sea beds. We asked Marinet's Bill Rigby whether he thought the outcome was as good as was being presented. He said:

'It is a very good outcome because MEPs have given a clear message that they are dissatisfied with the way the fisheries policies are working and they want things to change. Having made the necessary negative point, they have not at this stage, however, made clear what should be happening.

As we have said many times, European fish populations are a tiny fraction of what they were a generation ago. So, as well as stopping the destruction, policies should include strong methods for reversing the process—a determination to build in a management regime for conservation



www.marinet.org.uk

and restoration to historic population levels.

There remain too many opportunities for vested interests to resist proper conservation proposals. So, as someone said about an earlier campaign, "it's not the end, nor the beginning of the end—but the end of the beginning".

Marinet is still trying to keep the balance by making the case, and they do have allies, so cautious optimism is acceptable in these gloomy times.

Bill Rigby

Fishing for litter

WASTE FREE OCEANS is a Europe-wide initiative by plastic recyclers and fishermen to clean up our coastal waters.

A "Fishing for Litter" campaign was launched back in 2004, including fishermen from Sweden, Denmark, the Netherlands and the UK. The large UK fisheries fleet can play an important role. Last year fishing vessels in Scotland voluntarily cleared over 500 hundred tons of marine litter.

The reform of the EU Common Fisheries Policy might mean that fishermen will be paid by European Union funds to fish for litter. Fishermen are already collecting ghost nets (old nets that have been dumped into the ocean), and these are being recycled into brand new fishing nets. However, we need to improve waste management on shore and on vessels to make collection much easier - and individual countries must strengthen their recycling schemes.

Food for Hull unites local food groups

More than 40 people came along to the initial meeting of Food4Hull, organised by Diana Sandy, Lee-Ann Williams and Hilary Hamer, which took place on Tuesday, 22 January 2013. Three excellent speakers gave talks relating to the local food agenda, there was a buffet with home-made soup, and a lot of discussion and networking between people from a variety of backgrounds and organisations.

Graham Ward, the chair of the East Riding Food Network, said how important it was to connect food with where it came from, involving children in visiting farms or growing veg. People were becoming more aware of seasonality and the slow food movement was developing, but cooking could be a challenge for low income families. The **FareShare** movement was fighting hunger and tackling food waste. Supermarkets had removed the previous distribution chain, causing problems for local suppliers. Money spent locally acted as a **multiplier*** for the local economy.

Adrian Fisher spoke about the **Probe Food 360** project, which had taken place in East Hull over the last 3 years, working with people and schools to have fun exploring food, cooking and growing, because urban areas had become ignorant about where food came from, and what to do with raw ingredients. Coming from a farming background himself, he noted the adverse social impact on rural areas of fewer and larger farms.

Discussion following these two presentations made a couple of important points:

- ▶ Significant amounts of food can be grown in small areas, using containers and (peat free) compost, and chickens can be kept easily.
- ▶ Food may be produced locally but if not produced sustainably it was not a step in the right direction.

Tom Andrews of the Soil Association gave a presentation on **Sustainable Food Cities**. He cited the prevalence of obesity, diabetes and cancer and the possibility that our kids may live



less long than us. Greenhouse gas emissions, declining cooking skills, some farmers earning below minimum wage, food workers stuck in the low pay sector and the approach of food poverty were all drivers in the Sustainable Food Cities initiative. People identify with where they live and the aim was to create a positive food culture based on this identification. Visibility of good local food in markets and cafes was important, as was the need for democracy to ensure community access to assets including land for growing and retail space. He described several city wide programmes (Brighton, Cardiff, Plymouth) involving broad cross-sector partnerships working together to develop a vision and a set of principles (eg a Food Charter) followed by a strategy/local action plan and public engagement. Many more cities were in the process of becoming sustainable food cities and the Sustainable Food Cities Network aimed to help them, and share good practice. <http://www.soilassociation.org/sustainablefoodcities>

Discussion following this presentation covered:

- ▶ Food waste issues and the awareness-raising work of **Love Food Hate Waste** <http://www.lovefoodhatewaste.com/>
- ▶ The way forward for Food4Hull—strands might include Food Poverty, encouraging local suppliers and opposing new supermarkets.

There are many very exciting projects in this network of groups, individuals and companies all with an interest in working towards local food sustainability in the future. There is also a recognition of the many obstacles that will impede progress towards that goal.

Two further events have taken place and another is planned for **2 May** to be held at the **City Life Café** on Wright Street, Hull from 6.00 – 9.00 pm.

For further information on Food4Hull contact Diana on 01482 844102.

Jenny Parsons & Diana Sandy

* An economic term meaning where £1 of spending generates more than £1 in growth

Hull and the Humber get energised

To make the most of the opportunities created by the growing renewable energy industries, businesses, politicians and campaigning groups need to work together. 'Energising England' is a Friends of the

Earth initiative to bring interested parties together to promote renewable energy as part of the Clean British Energy campaign. Meetings have taken place around England and on 22nd March Hull was the host.

pilot stage, significantly more funding would have been needed to resolve the technical issues and this funding is not yet obtainable, which highlighted a major issue. The poor acceptance of risk by investors in the UK is putting our lead in tidal generation at risk, and countries such as France are catching up fast.

Lord Haskins took up this point, highlighting the needs to address the neglected economy of the Humber and for both sides of the river to work together. Potential investors need to hear a clear government commitment to renewables. The good news is that Michael Heseltine, in his recent review, was so impressed by the achievements to date that the area has been identified as one for local industrial development through a Local Enterprise Partnership. Lord Haskins also stressed the importance of having the skills locally to support this investment.

Andy Atkins, as Executive Director of Friends of the Earth, saw Energising the Humber as a positive opportunity against a background of great threats. FoE can present the vision of how climate change goals can be achieved. A low carbon economy would need clear government policy to ensure that the green economy potential is achieved. One clear step was to influence the Energy Bill to make sure the amendments by Tim Yeo are accepted and Andy asked that everyone should write to their MP requesting their backing.

Alan Johnson spoke as a local MP and a member of the previous government.

He reminded us that the UK is still the only country that has set a legal limit to climate change. On Siemens, he recounted the progress made. Hull is one of the three remaining options for Siemens from the 200 originally reviewed, due to its ability to create a suitable harbour, the availability of land on the riverfront, and its access to the rest of Europe. It is a huge investment by Siemens and the key thing is to ensure that Hull demonstrates it has all the attributes required, including the skill base to support it. He "doesn't doubt" that a future Labour Government will set a decarbonisation target.

After the public meeting, Hull FoE members had the opportunity to talk to Andy Atkins for about an hour on, well, on anything, really. So topics raised were local issues, national FoE strategies and communications, engaging local groups and how to attract and keep new members. It was a great opportunity for bridge and engine room to gain some understanding of the challenges at all levels of the organisation.

Everyone at the event was able to enjoy good local food, thanks to the efforts of our own food campaigners and local firms including Lowna Dairy, Arthur Street Trading, Feast Rising Bakery and Green and Cream Cakes; thanks also to the Albemarle Centre and Hull Truck Theatre for their help.

Ian Jolliffe

The event was organised by FoE's Regional Campaigner Simon Bowens, supported by Lee-Ann Williams from our Hull local group and others on the day. The session was chaired by Jan Thompson of National FoE.

Sam Pick of Hull's Renewables Network, started with the key message that we must "up-skill" to ensure we have the capabilities to support the renewables industries, both current and potential, a theme which came up repeatedly during the event.

One technology that has had a high profile is the Pulse Tidal Energy project. **Marc Paishly** (Pulse Generation) spoke about how it worked and why regrettably development work has stopped. In particular, he showed the stages that new technologies need to go through—essentially bench, pilot and full-scale, and that at each stage there are bigger risks and the investment required grows hugely. Having got Pulse to the

Ash dieback

continued from page 3

- ▶ the spores are unlikely to survive for more than a few days;
- ▶ no-one has been successful in transmitting the disease to ash trees by inoculation with *Chalara* spores.
- ▶ the disease becomes obvious in trees within months rather than years;
- ▶ once infected, trees can't be cured;
- ▶ not all trees die of the infection, and some are likely to have genetic resistance;
- ▶ it seems that older trees can also suffer dieback, but don't die immediately;
- ▶ the disease will apparently attack any species of ash, but has no other hosts;
- ▶ Ash wood products would not spread the disease if treated properly.

Its confirmed current distribution in the wider environment is concentrated mostly in the South East and East Anglia (ie fairly near the suspected original introduction). But researchers have also found infected older trees in East Anglia, Kent and Essex with no apparent connection with plants supplied by nurseries. On looking specifically at newly-planted sites, an

underlying pattern emerges, showing a scattering all over the UK. This includes a handful in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, which are almost definitely connected with recent planting.

Taking a UK-wide look at the first growing season since *Chalara's* discovery—out of almost 500 samples taken from ash trees and tested, only 2 sites (0.8%) definitely tested positive for disease. Locally, apart from confirmation of the three East Riding sites from the last article, there don't seem to have been any further reports (*data as at 18th March*).

No doubt we will gain more information about the 'what and where' of *Chalara* this summer, when trees are (or are not!) in full leaf.

Currently, clearance of buffer zones, felling and burning are not advocated. There seems to be a real hope that the genes of the ash will hold some degree of natural immunity or the capacity to build disease resistance.

The only formal controls introduced so far are the introduction of Ash and *Chalara* into the Plant Health Order 2012

(thus effectively controlling plant and timber imports until further notice); and the inclusion of ash in the new FERA requirements for statutory notification of imports.

All the above points seem to give a bit more hope about Chalara Ash dieback, It may not be as disastrous as suggested by early media reporting, and is unlikely to destroy our extensive ash woodlands in the short term. However, unless it burns itself out or, mutates into a harmless form, it will have enormous consequences in the longer-term future.

Next time: Ash Disease and the East Riding—possible threats for the forest economy, landscape, and wildlife habitats, and potential actions for ash owners.

For more information in the meantime, the Forestry Commission website: www.plant.health@forestry.gov.uk is probably the most up-to-date source.

Jon Capel

WILDLIFE NOTES

A moving experience

The aim was to clear some of the bigger trees from the nursery, which have been there for over ten years, and to free-up land for new arrivals. Annual root pruning made the task easier but moving the large trees was still difficult. One batch went to the Sidmouth Street School site on Newland Allotments so that was only a short distance from the YWT nursery. It was the last day of term and Ann Rayner was in charge. Every kid had a go at planting a tree. It was a busy day!

Another batch of trees headed for Sculcoates Cemetery. Fifteen-foot trees moving upright in a bicycle trailer along Newland Avenue caused some comments. My favourite was "I see you're branching out!"

It is proposed that 200,000 trees are to branch out in Hull over the next few years, courtesy of Wm Jackson's Ltd, to celebrate their bicentenary. I have some thoughts on this.

- ▶ Choose the planting sites, with advice, to improve the existing biodiversity.
- ▶ Use native trees and include hedgerows as part of the total.
- ▶ Involve community groups and schools in the scheme, and
- ▶ Set aside funds for the long term maintenance of the trees.

David Longthorn

Hull FoE had some worries when we learnt that Wm Jacksons were going to plant trees on the triangle of land south of the KC stadium surrounded by railway lines. What about the colony of lizards

which had been carefully preserved when the stadium was built? Fortunately Jacksons were taking expert advice, and Hull City Council's Tree Officer Tim Beckley was able to reassure us that the

trees had been planted on the north side of the site on the embankment next to the footbridge, well away from the lizards, and would help to increase the biodiversity of the site.



PHOTO: Hilary Byers

What's going on? News from local green groups

Hull and East Riding Greenshare Network

There have been several 'networking' events taking place lately, and it is always interesting to hear about the wealth of activities that are going on all over East Yorkshire to 'green' our environment. Often those people most involved in the 'hands on' activities don't always know what other people are doing not very far away from them.

That is why it was good to see a good turnout for the first get together of the Hull and East Riding Greenshare Network, held on 12th March in the Endsleigh Centre in Hull.

The Greenshare Network is open to not-for-private-profit groups in Hull and the East Riding of

Yorkshire with an interest in environmental issues including food, re-use and recycling, wildlife, climate change, carbon reduction, green spaces, community growing projects, sustainable transport and environmental education.

The aims of the Greenshare Network are to inspire the 'green agenda' and provide ways for groups to come together and find opportunities for joint working and sharing skills and resources. The intention is to provide a collective voice and influence on environmental issues and to champion issues on behalf of the network. The Network also aims to make

effective links with strategic bodies such as Hull's City Leadership Board and East Riding's Local Strategic Partnership in order to contribute to and influence their strategic priorities, developments and relevant local policies.

The Network will be exploring ways of making these communications happen over the next few months. ECO hopes to be part of this and to illustrate the great work which local groups are engaged in.

For more information or to be part of the Network, contact: Sharon.clay@hullcc.gov.uk or phone 01482 613281.

Hilary Byers

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.

Do you need paint?

COMMUNITY RePaint

REUSING PAINT IN THE COMMUNITY
Dulux, proud sponsor since 1993

Community RePaint now have a branch down Sculcoates Lane in the old paint factory, supplying paint at low prices to low income families, community groups, charities, sports clubs...

Contact: Paul Clark
Mobile: 07412 323501
[http:// www.communityrepaint.org.uk](http://www.communityrepaint.org.uk)

Transition Hull

'Living more lightly on the earth'



Bees in decline

Transition Hull's March meeting and film showing were focused on bees. Research indicates that neonicotinoid pesticides are harmful to bees. The current EU recommendation is that the use of these pesticides should be discontinued, *but this advice is being contested by the UK*. For more information and a petition to sign go to <http://www.38degrees.org.uk/page/s/ban-the-pesticides-that-are-harming-our-bees>



There are ways you can help the bee population, such as planting wildflower seeds. Advice from David Longthorn is that wildflower seeds are best started in seedtrays or 'plugs' before planting out, especially if you are introducing them into grass; just scattering is less successful.

The following web resources may be of interest:

Soil Association Keep Britain Buzzing

Free seeds from <http://www.soilassociation.org/supportus/keepbritainbuzzing>

Friends of the Earth Bee Cause Campaign

Bee Saver Kit (for a donation) from http://www.foe.co.uk/what_we_do/the_bee_cause_home_map_39371.html

Co-operative Plan Bee

Free game 'The Pollinator' for iPhone, iPad or iPod touch

<http://www.co-operative.coop/Plan-Bee/Ways-to-get-involved/>

10 things you can do to help honey bees

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2008/may/13/wildlife.endangeredspecies>

Forthcoming events

- ▶ **Mon 13 May:** Meeting with Speaker from Lush about their hand-made toiletries, with samples to examine and purchase. Boulevard Village Hall, 7.30 pm
- ▶ **Tues 21 May:** Film Showing 'Land Rush' about the rush by the rich to buy arable land in poor countries. Lonsdale Community Centre, 7.30 pm
- ▶ **Mon 10 June:** Meeting with Speaker from the Green Prosperity Project in East Hull. Boulevard Village Hall, 7.30 pm
- ▶ **Coming in September:** Speaker from Woodland Trust

If you would like to join our email list please email Jenny@transitionhull.co.uk, or you may like to visit our Transition-Hull facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Transition-Hull/468326559864766?ref=hl#>

Jenny Parsons

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

Sancton Hill Wind Farm

In issue 39 of ECO, October 2012, Hilary reported on a visit to Sancton Hill Wind Farm. Douglas Sanders writes as follows:

I refer to your article and where you write "as the minimum distance allowed from houses is 5 times the height of the wind turbine, I don't think it would have been audible from any houses."

Therefore I would like to inform you that the nearest turbine is in the region of 900 meters from my house and with the prevailing south westerly winds the turbine noise can be heard quite distinctly and we have to keep our windows closed at all times to keep the noise at a minimum, but it can still be heard inside the house. We also suffer from flicker effect when the sun is low behind one of the turbines during November and December.

REG (Renewable Energy Generation, the managers of the windfarm) is monitoring the situation.

East Riding of Yorkshire Council has logged my complaint in the planning file.

Kind regards,

Douglas Saunders
1 Arras Wold Cottages
Sancton
YO43 4RL

Amazing Play (Middleton Street) Community Garden

This garden lies just north of Spring Bank, on the site of the old Middleton Street School. There are probably many people who don't realise there is this green haven open to the public less than a mile from the city centre. It has a large grassed area which is a great venue for outdoor events and it regularly sees BBQs, family fun days and gardening sessions, run by local residents and charities Amazing Play and Kids Round The Block.

The site is next to and links through to an older established nature reserve that was planted on former railway land by residents in Louis Street. This now forms an attractive woodland with pathways through, although unfortunately it does suffer from some dumped rubbish.

The Garden is maintained by volunteers with help from Community Payback. Recently they got some funding support from Asda.

Amazing Play's Sue Alvis tells us that there is a lot of potential to expand its activities, but it needs a few essentials. Currently they are looking for funding for composting toilets. They also need some financial help to organise activities which will draw in more active volunteers from the surrounding community, many of whom are recent immigrants. They recently contacted the Royal Horticultural Society who organise



PHOTO: Hilary Byers

training schemes in gardening, especially growing food (contact libbygoodacre@rhs.org.uk).

Contact for Amazing Play: amazingplay@live.co.uk

Sue Alvis and Hilary Byers



Hull Friends of the Earth

MEMBERSHIP

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.



Maypole dancing at Pickering Road Orchard.

This year it's on Sunday, 5 May, from 12 - 3pm.

Night Walk in Pearson Park
 organised by
 Friends of Pearson Park
Wednesday 1 May 2013
 Meet 7.45 at the Pearson Park Hotel.
 8.45 Bat Walk led by East Yorkshire Bat Group.
 9.45 Hull and East Riding Astronomical Society and Blackburn Leisure Astronomy will let you have a look through their telescopes.
 All welcome including accompanied children.

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

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