



DIARY DATES

Tues 5 Nov 7.30pm

HFoE meeting Recycling Unlimited 151 Newland Avenue

Mon 11 Nov 7.30pm

Permaculture Talk at Boulevard Village Hall (see page 7)

Sat 30 Nov 12-4pm

Arthur's Open Day, Walton Street (see page 7)

Tues 3 Dec 7.30pm

HFoE meeting Recycling Unlimited 151 Newland Avenue

Sat 7 Dec 10.30-3 (stalls set up 9.30am)

HFoE Green Fair, Spring Bank Community Centre (see page 3)

Tue 7 Jan 7.30pm

HFoE meeting, Recycling Unlimited 151 Newland Avenue

Tue 4 Feb 7.30pm

HFoE meeting, Recycling Unlimited 151 Newland Avenue

Lots more inside...



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GREEN FAIR IN SPRING BANK

Our Green Fair will be on Saturday 7 December 2013

At the Spring Bank Community Centre

From 10.30am to 3pm

Please note the change of venue & time! Full details on page 3

MINI MEADOWS for Pearson Park

Pearson Park is to get three areas of 'meadow' as a result of a partnership between the Friends of Pearson Park, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and Hull Friends of the Earth, with the agreement



PHOTO: Hilary Byers

of the Pearson Park Trust. Small areas of the park near the entrance opposite Westbourne Avenue are to be set aside and the grass allowed to grow long. Wildflowers will be planted into the grass and allowed to seed. The grass will then be hand cut in autumn. The Park Rangers have agreed to help protect the sites.

The proposal for the meadows came about as a result of a survey carried out by the organisations which showed that, while there

were plenty of pollenating insects in the Wildlife Garden and in the natural vegetation along the margin of Queens Road, the park itself was lacking in biodiversity due to the predominance of short grass. The meadow areas will introduce species to attract more insects while not interfering with other uses of the park.

Funds have been set aside for plaques to explain the significance of the meadows.

Hilary Byers

eco CHIT CHAT



Sunny Schools

Friends of the Earth have chosen Sunny Schools as the next major campaign to launch in 2014. This is about setting up community renewable energy projects in schools. It would be really great to see this campaign take off in our area, so if you would be interested, especially if you have connections with a school, please get in touch with Sue or Hilary (details back page).



Fracking

A local anti-fracking group has formed in response to test drilling in Walkington and Withernwick. It includes people with experience of fracking in other parts of the country. More info from pippa.king@yahoo.co.uk or 01482 492230 or [heyfrackoff](#) Facebook page.



Prince's Trust team seeks work

The young people on the Prince's Trust Team Programme in Hull are looking for a project to complete that will benefit the local community. Does your organisation have a garden that needs renovating? Or a Community room needs decorating? Or perhaps would benefit from a mural painting? The group will be supervised throughout and have 2 weeks to plan and fundraise for the project then 2 weeks to complete the project. Please contact Liz on ECullen@hull-college.ac.uk or call 01482 898721 for more info.



Practical GREEN activities

Green Prosperity are running a number of practical activities based at Longhill or East Hull Community Farm. Recent ones include compost making, building planters for your garden and jam making. For an up to date list contact Andy.Steele@freedomcentre.info; 01482 710177.



Biofuels

Local politicians have made much of the potential of the recently opened Vivergo biofuels plant to create or support 1000 jobs. But I still feel we should not be using wheat to create fuel for our cars.



Ella Street art project

The 'Street of Birds and Shadows' is a public art project led by Ella Street Residents Association. Artist Martin Heron [what a great bird name!] and local residents have created bird sculptures, wall texts etc based on the real birds that live in the street. More and a downloadable booklet on www.ellastreet.co.uk



Friends of Constable Street

The Friends of Constable Street are now looking after the green space in that street. There was a summer fair for the local children and bulb and tree planting are taking place. Lausanne on lausannet@yahoo.co.uk, 01482 228367 can put you in touch.



Feeble action on plastic bags

The government has announced that a 5p charge for single-use plastic carrier bags will be introduced in England. But the charge won't come in until 2015, and when it does, it will only be in stores employing over 250 people. Wales and Northern Ireland have already introduced a 5p charge which applies in all stores. This has resulted in a 76% reduction in the use of single-use bags in Wales, and an 80% reduction in Northern Ireland. So the campaign goes on. I wish I didn't keep forgetting to take my multi use bags with me though!



Ecotricity is green and cheaper!

Ecotricity are now charging less for electricity than the Big Six companies, and it's from 100% renewable sources. They also promise their gas will remain 'Frac Free'. More from welcome@ecotricity.co.uk



Hull Transition

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



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.

Food4Hull update

After several well-supported public meetings earlier in the year, Food4Hull is now a not-for-profit social enterprise company with aims which relate to local sustainable food for Hull and surrounding areas. See <http://food4hull.co.uk> for more information about our aims.

Over the next few months we will be developing the website content to reflect what is already going on in Hull—the many growing projects and various suppliers of local food. There will also be information about new initiatives, such as the **Hull Land Army**, being set up by Food4Hull in collaboration with Hull and East Riding Time Bank.

See us at **Arthur's Open Day** (see 'What's Going On', page 7) and the Green Fair.

Jenny Parsons and Lee-ann Williams

Green FAIR

This is definitely how it's going to be!

on Saturday 7 December 2013

open to public 10.30am (stalls unload from 9.30am)

at the Spring Bank Community Centre, West Parade (near the former Tap pub) HU3 1BX

Please note the **change of venue**, the **later date** and the **earlier start time!**

If you've been confused about this year's Green Fair, we are not surprised! Unfortunately we can no longer have the Green Fair in the Prospect Centre where we had it last year as they now have a permanent letting for the upstairs space. So we are back again at our old home of the **Spring Bank Community Centre** where we used to have the fairs before last year. This venue is smaller than the Prospect Centre, so **if you are intending to have a stall please get your booking in straight away** or you might be outside!

We have moved the start time forward by 30 minutes because last year we were ready by then.

We still intend to have all of the usual features that make our Green Fairs special. The **café** which was such a success last year will again be run as a training venture by Time Bank; all veggie of course, with as many locally sourced or fairtrade ingredients as possible. And we still need those scrumptious cakes that you lovely people donate!

The **musicians** will be back on the stage; if you want to play please contact Jill Fisher if possible on 01482 442120

(acoustic only please) but if you just turn up we will try to include you. **Morris dancers** The Raving Maes and Rackaback have bravely offered to dance outside; you'll be able to have a go! Let's hope for good weather! There will be **craft activities for the children** run by Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and the Home Educators and, of course, lots of interesting **stalls** by environmental groups, hand-made crafts people, recyclers, fair traders, organic growers and energy savers. We have already got quite a few new people this year.

If you can come by bike, bus, or on foot please do so because car parking on site is always difficult; there is a free car park off Morton St/Derringham St.

Please let all your friends and contacts know and display the poster. If you've not been to one of our Green Fairs before, give us a try. If you are a regular, we look forward to seeing you again!

Green Fair contact: Hilary Byers

Email: hilary@amskaya.karoo.co.uk Tel: 01482 445747

SECRET GARDENS

CASE Garden Clough Road/Oak Road allotments

I'd expected the CASE garden to be good when I visited their Open Day on 2 August, as they have won many Hull in Bloom awards. But I was not prepared for the riot of colour and the artistic way in which flowers, vegetables and herbs had been mixed within an overall design. Trainees raise most of the items from seed and much of the veg is used in the CASE kitchen or taken home. They have just started a new plot which will include an orchard and wildflower meadow.



PHOTO: Hilary Byers

CASE provides training and work for adults with learning difficulties

Contact: samchegwin@case4life.org.uk Tel: 01482 609030

EU steps forwards and backwards on biofuels

In August's ECO we reported on the EU Environment Committee vote in July on proposals to reform the current Biofuels Requirements. There was a further vote on 11 September by the full EU Parliament.

Kenneth Richter of national Friends of the Earth says:

'Many thanks to everyone who wrote to their MEPs before the vote. Sadly, despite large numbers of people across many European countries having urged their MEPs to vote for meaningful curbs to EU biofuels demand, the outcome of the vote was extremely disappointing.

By a narrow margin, MEPs voted for a 6% cap on biofuels derived from food crops – up from a 5% proposal by the European Commission, and up from a current 4.5%. ActionAid have calculated that a 6% cap would mean burning enough food to feed 200 million people.

Furthermore, the European Parliament voted to only take Indirect Land Use Change impacts into account from 2020, and only under one of the two directives that promote biofuels use. Bizarrely, the whole abysmal compromise will now simply go back to yet another vote in spring 2014.

More from FoE in http://www.foe.co.uk/news/biofuel_vote_outcome_41135.html

Clearly, this outcome was largely due to intense industry lobbying, as analysed in this article by Corporate Europe Observatory: <http://corporateeurope.org/blog/heated-lobbying-over-parliament-agrofuel-vote>

Yorkshire and Humber MEP (Lib Dem) **Edward MacMillan-Scott**, in his reply to Hull FoE, took a more positive view of the outcome:

'Under current EU rules, member states are required to ensure that renewable energy sources account for at least 10% of transport fuel use by 2020. One of the key points of the report is that the share of first-generation biofuels, produced from cereals, sugar, oilseeds and energy crops, must not exceed 6% of total energy consumption for transport purposes by 2020. This would be a step towards encouraging second and third generation biofuels, also known as advanced biofuels, limiting the impact on global food markets. Advanced biofuels produced from other sources, such as certain waste products, must account for no less than 2.5 % of consumption by 2020.

It is also important to note that biofuels are potentially very useful in constructing a renewable alternative to carbon-costly fuels and this report looks at ways of using biofuels in a manner that combats climate change, and at the same time does not harm the environment. It underlines the needs for the full accounting of biofuels' climate impacts, a shift towards green renewable electricity and more green transport solutions with real economic, social and environmental benefits.

I am pleased that progress has been made and we have achieved a decrease in the cap from 10% to 6%, as it is definitely a step in the right direction. However, I shall continue to support and push for a lower cap, taking into account your concerns for food security and the environment. Along with my fellow ALDE (ie Lib Dem) MEPs, I also hope to ensure that publicly subsidised biofuels achieve real greenhouse gas savings and at the same time promote the development of advanced biofuels and new, innovative technologies.'

Hull FoE will continue to lobby for lower targets at every opportunity!

Sue Jolliffe

A shedful of good advice

This wacky shed was 'home' to Hull Friends of the Earth, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and Hull College at the Freedom Festival on 6-8 September. Decorated by artists from Hull College, it was sure to attract attention, positioned as it was near an events marquee and a beer tent.

We were able to hand out leaflets, wild flower seeds, plants and advice, and made several useful contacts at what was a very enjoyable event.

The shed has now found a new home in the Wildlife Garden in Pearson Park. Pay it a visit!

Hilary Byers and Lee-ann Williams



BOOK REVIEW

'Animal, Vegetable, Miracle' by Barbara Kingsolver

Barbara Kingsolver is one of my favourite authors. Her 'The Poisonwood Bible' about a missionary family in Africa is one of the best books ever written. I have all her titles and I acquired the current one, 'Animal, Vegetable, Miracle', not really knowing what she was writing about. But the subject is of interest to us all.

Kingsolver and her family moved from urban living to a farm and decided to spend a year eating only local food, either grown by themselves or found at the farmers' market where they knew the farmers in the area. They became "locavores" and succeeded.

The book is about their year when supermarket aisles and airmiles (when "distributors, processors, and shippers reap most of the benefits") became a thing of the past. They made their own cheese,

their own bread, kept poultry and planted their fields. They canned food to eat during the lean months of winter. As she writes: "In a nation pouring its resources into commodity agriculture—corn and soybeans everywhere and not a speck fit to eat—back to the land is an option with a permanent, quiet appeal... Many of us who aren't farmers or gardeners still have some element of farm nostalgia in our family past, real or imagined: a secret longing for some connection to a life where a rooster crows in the yard."

The book has helpful recipes, a number of which I've tried and lots of how-to-do-it to be a successful locavore throughout the year. One of the best parts of the book was about their discovery of an old diner turned into an eating place that served only local food; in other words, a locavore restaurant. I wish we had one here!

In the book she takes on Monsanto and the other global corporations who seem bound to destroy both farmers

and the food we want to eat. Amazingly, "Agribusinesses can patent plant varieties for the purpose of removing them from production."

Of course, one theme is *Small is Better*. Monocultures destroy self-sufficient small farmers all over the world. And Kingsolver tells lots of stories. One of my favourites is about an Amish farmer who came to speak about organic dairy farming to "hardworking farmers who'd watched their animals, land, and accounts slide into ruin during the half-century since the USDA declared as its official policy, 'Get big or get out'. And there sat their teacher, the Amish farmer, who stayed small. Small enough anyway: "He would never have to move through his cornfield too quickly to study the soil, or hear the birds answer daylight with their song."

Haris Livas-Dawes

Out and about with City of Hull & Humber Environment Forum

CHEF have worked with Hull City Council on engaging the public with various regeneration initiatives in West Hull around energy efficiency measures, using our specially converted bus. We are also using it to deliver monthly mobile environmental roadshows with Environmental Management Services in East Hull, part of a lottery funded

scheme. Each month we pick a particular environmental theme such as recycling, gardening and energy efficiency, offering practical solutions to help the environment.

The bus visits schools as well as high profile locations such as outside supermarkets and shopping parades.

I hope over the summer some of you experienced our two bus services—The Driffield Malton Dodger and Spurn Ranger. CHEF was instrumental in creating these services, encouraging visitors to visit these locations in a sustainable way.

Adam Fowler,

City of Hull & Humber Environment Forum

Green Share Network grows

In our May edition we reported on the setting up at the Endsleigh Centre of the **Green Share Network**, made up of organisations, individuals and businesses in Hull and the East Riding of Yorkshire with an interest in environmental activities and issues. Over 50 organisations have now joined the Network.

It is run by a voluntary sector steering group, with non-financial support from the Partnership Team in Hull City Council. In November the Steering Group hope to discuss City Plan priorities with the Leader of the Council.

More info: Sharon.clay@hullcc.gov.uk
Tel: 01482 613281

Hilary Byers

Let's keep the Moors Bus running

Some of you may have used this innovative and environmentally friendly bus service to the North Yorks Moors. Two buses every Sunday and Bank Holiday leave Hull and Beverley and give people a green way of visiting the Moors. These form part of a much wider network of interconnecting services giving you a cost-efficient way of visiting the National Park.

Unfortunately this may well be the last chance (it ends on the last Sunday of October) as **the National Park is withdrawing the funding for the whole network**. CHEF has been advising concerned supporters to try and get a rescue package together. EYMS and other operators have expressed interest but we also want green groups, walking groups or anyone who might be interested to write to the National Park voicing their objection.

Please write to:

North Yorkshire National Parks Authority, The Old Vicarage, Bondgate, Helmsley, York, North Yorkshire YO62 5BP

Adam Fowler,

City of Hull & Humber Environment Forum

WILDLIFE NOTES

PHOTO: David Longthorn



Now is the winter

Well not yet, but preparation is under way. Vegetation in the **Sculcoates Cemetery** and **Newland wildlife area** is being cut back to control invasive brambles. (Woodworm in the scythe handle caused a problem but access to the workshop at Community Repaint cured this, thanks to Paul). The dry conditions make for quick progress but newly planted trees have needed regular watering. Prepared space will soon be needed for the annual tree planting with pupils from Stepney

Lane School, aimed for **Friday, 29 November, 1-3pm**, to coincide with Tree Week. Clearance of the Japanese Knotweed would free up some land and there is a possible solution to this problem.

During the summer youngsters have been encouraged to sow wildflower seeds in pots of compost as part of the bee campaign. This was especially successful at the Noddle Hill event on August Bank Holiday Monday. A chance meeting provided some feedback on this. Yes, the seeds

have started growing; a small step in the right direction. The results for **Hull in Bloom** were announced in September. The cemetery took joint 2nd place, along with Newland NHS (behind Pickering Road Community Orchard), for the community wildlife area. I'll have to dust the shelf now.

Meanwhile, I was involved with the regular volunteers in the cemetery (last Friday of the month, 1.30pm-3.30pm). A rattle at the gate revealed a reporter from **BBC 'Look North'** (Phil Connell).

*"I'm looking for a cemetery..."
I didn't think quick enough
"...but I didn't realise this was so
overgrown!"*

I was ready to give him a lecture on the value of the green cover for wildlife, but he was obviously under pressure, so I simply directed him to the manicured Air Street site in a dismissive manner.

The said site was used as a backdrop that evening for an item on the shortage of burial places. The same news item did contain a view of a York cemetery, which could easily have been taken in Sculcoates, with a commentary on the value of 'overgrown' areas, so there was some balance and I'm a little more content.

David Longthorn

Nuclear lessons still not learnt

More and more evidence is emerging of the problems at the Fukushima nuclear plant, as highlighted by Susie Greaves in her article in last issue of ECO, and in her talk to Hull Transition and Hull FoE on Monday 16 September.

Thousands of tons of heavily contaminated water from a leaking containment pool are pouring through the Fukushima site, undermining the already unstable structures, and polluting

the Pacific Ocean. The 400 tons of fuel in that pool could release more than 15, 000 times the radiation released at Hiroshima¹.

We are urged to sign a petition to be delivered to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon requiring that international expertise be brought in².

At a press conference at the Foreign Correspondents Club of Japan on 24 September 2013, Mr Gregory Jaczko, former Chairman of the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission said that we need to focus on supplying

our energy needs without nuclear. He describes accidents like Fukushima that contaminate vast areas of land and leave a legacy of decades of decontamination as unacceptable. "...we have to change the mindset about people believing that accidents can't happen. Before the accident too many people believed in that mindset and that's part of the challenge."

He says, "leaks of contaminated water at the crippled Fukushima plant had been known since early in the crisis and

Continued on page 8

What's going on? News from local green groups

WHEN	WHAT & WHERE	CONTACT INFO
Saturday 2 November 1-4 pm	An afternoon of Coffee, Cakes and Dancing with the Raving Maes , at All Saints Church Hall Hessele. Your chance to try morris dancing; all ages, sexes and abilities welcome! Proceeds to Macmillan Cancer Support	www.theravingmaes.co.uk
Monday 11 November 7.30 pm	Talk on Permaculture—gardening in harmony with nature by Lausanne Tranter, at Boulevard Village Hall. Informal discussion over refreshments afterwards.	Organised by Hull Transition and Hull Friends of the Earth
Monday 11 November 1.30-5pm	Funding for Community Healthy Eating Projects at Hull Truck Theatre	kate@timebankhullandeastriding.co.uk
Saturday 17 November 12.30-3.30 pm	Thoresby Community Big Dig at Thoresby School. Creating an edible forest garden. <i>Bring a (garden) fork if you have one.</i>	AT_the_edge@yahoo.co.uk
Saturday 30 November 12.00-4 pm	Arthur's Open Day at Jubilee Church, Walton Street. Stalls by local growers, community growing schemes, veg box schemes etc. Cooking demonstrations.	Lee-Ann Williams info@arthursorganics.com 01482 652891 or 07583 194313
Saturday 7 December 10.30-3 pm	HFoE Green Fair Spring Bank Community Centre.	hilary@amskaya.karoo.co.uk 01482 445747
Wednesday 19 March, 2014	Day of GreenShare activities in Hull's Guildhall	sharon.clay@hullcc.gov.uk

Pedal power to Ghana from Avenues

www.avenuesbicycleproject.org

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



PHOTO: Chris Jarrell

The **Avenues Bicycle Project** had a very successful loading day in September, managing to squeeze 420 bikes into a shipping container that left Felixstowe bound for Ghana. The Village Bicycle Project in Ghana is looking forward to the bikes arriving soon.

Thank you to all of you have helped with this year's shipment—donating bikes, financial support, fundraising, preparing bikes for shipping, publicity, bike collecting, baking, container packing, bike renovation, the project steering group...the list goes on. What a team effort!

Chris Jarrell

Project Organizer
Avenues Bicycle Project



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.

Nuclear lessons still not learnt (continued from page 6)

have worsened because Japan acted too slowly." There is evidence that the Japanese government covered up news of the damage to protect their trade and financial markets, leading to delays in taking action.

All of which makes it particularly worrying that the British Government appears to be about to give the green light to Chinese firms taking majority stakes in the UK's next generation of nuclear plants, including building a new Hinkley C reactor.

John Large, a government adviser on nuclear issues, has warned that the Chinese 'are rooted in a government system without independent safety regulators', and he fears that pressure will be brought to bear on the UK's Office for Nuclear Regulation to gloss over problems encountered with a Chinese operator.

Hilary Byers

Based on information supplied by Susie Greaves and Lee-Ann Williams, magazine *Science in Society* and articles in *The Guardian*



Keep in touch between ECOs

Let Sue know (*details below*) if you are not on our email list

¹ info from http://www.isis.org.uk/The_World_Must_Take_Charge_at_Fukushima.php

² http://petitions.moveon.org/sign/the-world-community-must?source=s.em.mt&r_by=69

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.foe.co.uk/hull or www.hfoe.org.uk		Email: jolliffe@jolliffe.karoo.co.uk