

DIARY DATES

Tues 3 Feb, 7.30pm

HFoE meeting, *The Yard*, 204 Newland Avenue

Tues 3 Mar, 7.30pm

HFoE meeting, *The Yard*, 204 Newland Avenue

Sat 7 Mar, 11am-3.30pm

Seed Swap at Freedom Centre, Preston Road (see page 11)

Wed 18 March, 9.30am-3.30pm

Greenshare Conference
The Lawns, Cottingham (see page 3)

Tues 7 April, 7.30pm

HFoE AGM & meeting, *The Yard*, 204 Newland Avenue.

HullECO deadline

Tues 5 May, 7.30pm

HFoE meeting, *The Yard*, 204 Newland Avenue

Other events inside

TTIP threat to democracy

PHOTO: Lee-Ann Williams



David Malone

On December David Malone of Scarborough—film maker, researcher and writer—spoke knowledgeably and with great concern about the

Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) to a group of some 50–60 people at the Friends Meeting House in Hull. His title was 'The Death of Democracy'.

We learned a lot and realised that our democratic way of governance (such as it is) is in extreme danger and our much prized legal structures can do nothing to protect us.

A 'Russian Doll'

TTIP is the outer layer of what David described as a three part 'Russian Doll'. Partnerships, per se, do not constitute a threat; there is nothing new in Trade Agreements. It's the two inner 'dolls' that enable transnational companies—mostly based in the US—to sidestep national government decisions and legal challenges. These are the Bilateral Investment Treaty of 1959 and the Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS).

One of the current US aims is to harmonise regulatory mechanisms, with the EU initially and then globally. David pointed out that the EU has struggled long and hard to achieve a very much higher standard than the US and elsewhere. 2006 saw standards being agreed across the

EU in relation to pest control, animal welfare, human rights and wages and much more. In contrast the US standards date back to 1976 and have not been updated as new products have been developed. The US does not accept the need for labelling for the inclusion of a GM product or country of origin for example. Of the 80,000 new chemicals that have been introduced into products and the environment since 1976 only 200 have been tested for safety. **US law assumes that something is safe unless there are studies to prove otherwise.**

David mentioned that in relation to fracking, US law states that it is safe. But it has not been tested.

US companies are looking for access to two of our markets in particular—health and food and agriculture.

If our government agrees to all this, we would be effectively replacing our Farm to Fork standards with US standards and agreeing to the potential increase in privatisation of our health services.

No rights of appeal

Disputes would not be dealt with by our law courts. They would go to an 'arbitration' panel composed of corporate lawyers, many of whom are also employed by the large international companies. Other people have no representation, and there is no judicial review. By this system three individuals decide on

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eco CHIT CHAT



Hull FoE now meets at 'The Yard', 204 Newland Avenue.

This is another of Recycling Unlimited's premises, opposite the end of Sidmouth Street. The room is on the ground floor, easier to heat and we can make tea and coffee. But it would be a good idea to ring Sue, Hilary or one of the other regulars if you have a disability or might be late, so we can make sure you can get in! Meetings start 7.30pm.



Green Fair Feedback

Generally people seemed happy with the Freedom Centre venue, but we had hoped for more people through the door. Attendance was about the same as at Spring Bank. The weather didn't help, but we have a bit to do to persuade East Hullensians that we've got an event that they will enjoy, and West Hullensians to cross the river! The mushroom workshops put on by Green Prosperity were popular, our musicians as ever created a pleasant ambience, and Mo in the café assures me that in future we shall have washable cutlery and plates!



Let's get more schools *Running on Sun*

Last Eco reported on Ings Primary's impressive array of solar panels. The Head has invited other schools to come to an Open Day in February and see and hear how their school can *Run on Sun*. If you have connections with a school and want to know more, contact the school administrator at Ings Primary.



Elections run up is now on!

Plenty of questions we can ask the candidates about TTIP, fracking, biofuels, lack of support for genuine renewables, lack of air quality monitoring etc. Look out for Question Time-type events locally.



Air Quality

Defra wants to remove the requirement for Local Authorities to monitor and report on air quality. If they don't have to do it, you can bet most won't. Is it coincidence that the European Court of Justice recently ruled that the UK must clean up its illegal breach of EU air quality legislation as soon as possible?

See www.biofuelwatch.org.uk/2015/defra-alert

PHOTOS: Hilary Byers



Craft Fair

On Sat 14 March Hull FoE will have a stall at the Craft Fair at North Ferriby Village Hall. If you live in the area, come and say hello.



Basecamp 12-14 June 2015 in Castleton, Derbyshire.

Basecamp brings together people from the Friends of the Earth community and beyond for a weekend of learning and fun. It doesn't matter if you're an experienced campaigner or a newcomer, if you're a Friends of the Earth member or not. Basecamp is for everyone who wants to take action for the environment. Accommodation camping, YHA or B&B. Booking now on www.foe.co.uk/page/basecamp-2015-0

Hull FoE membership & AGM

SUBS ARE DUE FOR 2015 BY 7 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 7 April, at least)—what good value!

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

HULL FRIENDS OF THE EARTH AGM

Tuesday, 7 April 2015

7.30 pm

The Yard, 204 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.

We'd love to meet you, even if you've not been to our meetings before. Or why not come in February or March for a chat with the 'regulars' about what sort of role you might play?

LOCAL GREEN GROUPS NEWS & EVENTS

- ▶ **Marinet** has elected to become an organisation in its own right, independent from Friends of the Earth. It is now a limited liability company run on a not-for-profit basis by its voluntary members. Its focus is to seek protection for the world's oceans and the marine and coastal environment of the UK. It believes it can speak out on issues not tackled by existing organisations. Membership is available at £1.00. See www.marinet.org.uk. For further details, contact : Stephen Eades, Stephen@marinet.org.uk T. 01249 653972.
- ▶ **Yorkshire Wildlife Trust** needs our support to ensure that Marine Conservation Zones are set up off the Yorkshire Coast. The Holderness MCZ would cover inshore waters from Skipsea to Spurn, while the Compass Rose MCZ, further out to sea, would protect our fish swarming grounds. See www.ywt.org.uk/yorkshire-MCZs
- ▶ **Timebank's Giving Tuesday**
Timebank Hull&ER offset the idiocy of 'Black Friday' by holding a 'Giving Tuesday' when people did nice things for each other like making a cake to share with workmates or teaching a new skill to a friend. Sounds much more fun.
- ▶ **Hull is a Fairtrade City**
It has been since 2005. But it is aiming to raise its media profile and to increase the number of events that bring Fairtrade supporters together. The One World Shop is taking the lead and the City Council and University are on board, but they want involvement from more of the people and organisations who are interested in Fairtrade. If that is you, a good starting point might be to contact Nigel Mills at Hull and East Yorkshire Community Foundation on 01482 320021.
- ▶ Have you tried **BRiCOven Community Café** on Story Street, opposite the Wilberforce Health Centre? They provide craft and computer courses as well as cheap and wholesome meals between 8.30am and 2pm Mon to Fri. Some of the food comes from their own allotment.

BEVERLEY FOE NOW MEET INFORMALLY AT GREEN DRINKS, 13TH OF EACH MONTH, 6.30-9.00 PM, AT THE GREEN DRAGON PUB IN BEVERLEY

MORE INFO FROM CHRIS UPTON ON cmu9art@yahoo.co.uk

Hull FoE and Transition Hull public talks

Hull FoE and Transition Hull are planning a series of talks on alternative and lesser known energy sources. These should include:

- ▶ Thorium, the benign Nuclear Power
- ▶ Wind; other turbine designs?
- ▶ Whatever happened to Tidal Energy?

And for something completely different:

A workshop: Drum making out of biscuit tins!
Should be lots of noisy fun!

No dates yet. Join Hull FoE emailing list to keep in touch (see Sue Jolliffe on back page) or see www.transitionhull.co.uk or www.foe.co.uk/groups/hull

Transition films

Look out for Transition Hull showing of the film *Voices in Transition* this spring. Subtitled 'Fertile paths to a better food system', it explores how climate change can be ameliorated by changes in agriculture and supporting local economies, and has sections on:

- ▶ Farming in transition;
- ▶ Community-led solutions;
- ▶ Cuba's path to agroecology.

Contacts for dates:

Sue Jolliffe (see back page) or see www.transitionhull.co.uk or www.foe.co.uk/groups/hull

Further clarification from Biofuelwatch of implications of Drax conversion to burning wood pellets

In the southern US, the impacts of pellet production by one of Drax's key suppliers, Enviva (the largest US pellet producer) are being studied closely by an alliance of three conservation organisations: Dogwood Alliance, Southern Environmental Law Center and NRDC (Natural Resources Defense Council).

Enviva uses hardwood from southern US coastal wetland forests (bottomland hardwoods) to make pellets. Drax don't deny that this is where a significant proportion of their pellets come from, but they (and Enviva) claim that they're only using low-quality wood for pellets and that the higher quality wood is going to sawmills, and they call this "residues". It is true that around 30% of wood, from the largest trees goes to sawmills but without the new additional

demand for the remaining 70% of wood there'd be no incentive for forest owners to clearcut the entire forests. Without the demand for pellets, forest owners would want to leave the 70% of smaller trees to grow and would at most be undertaking selective logging.

At the last Drax AGM, a company spokesperson admitted that the first converted unit relies on hardwood, claiming that the next unit conversion would be different and allow softwood to be burned (no idea whether this will be true). In the southern US, native forests are hardwood forests whereas all plantations are softwood.

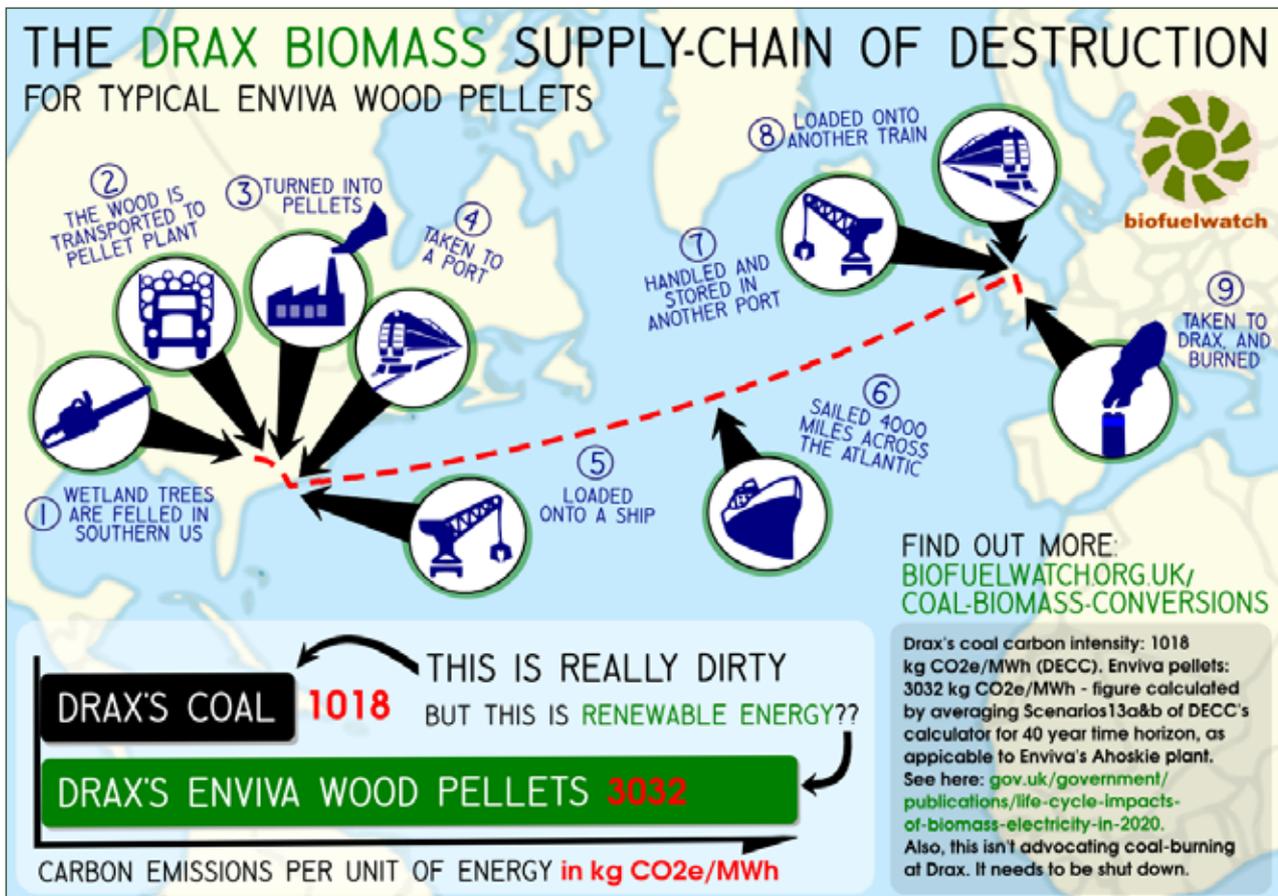
Information sent to Jon Capel by Almuth Ernsting of Biofuelwatch, January 2015

Bottomland hardwoods are extremely biodiverse forests—they're amongst the most biodiverse subtropical ecosystems in the world.

See http://dia.dogwoodalliance.org/p/salsa/web/questionnaire/public/?questionnaire_KEY=1656

and this scientific article about the biodiversity impacts of pellet production in that region:

https://www.southernenvironment.org/uploads/publications/NWF_Biomass_Wildlife_Full_Report.pdf



Biofuel—exposing false green solutions

The November 2014 talk arranged by Hull FoE and Transition Hull, entitled **Biofuel—exposing false green solutions**, explored all the reasons why biofuels are not a green answer to the challenge of moving away from fossil fuels.

Duncan Law, a member of Transition Town Brixton and a campaigner with Biofuel Watch UK, came up from London to deliver an excellent, fact-filled talk supported by data and illustrations.

One main concern is the **destruction of forests and the biodiversity associated with them**. Although there are a variety of sources for biofuel, the majority is sourced from wood. Companies may claim to use wood waste, but the fact is that the biofuel industry as a whole is driving large-scale deforestation. In addition, biofuels from other sources, eg corn, wheat, rapeseed, are using agricultural land which might otherwise produce food.

Other concerns include **pollution from burning biomass**, which is far more problematic than acknowledged, with some communities suffering serious health effects. The **transportation of biomass** half way round the world from source to place of use is another negative aspect of the industry.

Biofuels are classed by the government as a renewable energy source. However, the **carbon savings seem to be based on questionable accounting** which does not take into consideration the time it takes for new trees to grow, pollution or transportation overheads. It is thought that in fact most biomass in current use is worse than coal over 1-2 generations. There is an urgent need to raise public awareness about the fact that **biomass is not a renewable energy source** like wind, solar, hydro and tidal generation, and that it causes severe detriment to the environment in terms of destruction of forests and biodiversity.

One of Biofuelwatch's current campaigns focuses on **Drax power station and the import of biofuel for it via Hull**. See the Transition Hull website www.transitionhull.co.uk to access the slides from the talk, links to further information and ways to get involved, under the post *Biofuel—exposing false green solutions*.

Also on the website is a post: *Biofuel—exposing false reports* which gives a response to a December 2014 report by American academics urging the British Government to promote the biofuel industry.

Jenny Parsons

TTIP threat to democracy continued from page 1

the outcome in private hearings with no rights of appeal.

The entire system is designed to protect the profits and products of transnational companies from democratic governments. If a government changes its mind and decides to deal with a different company the offended company sues not just for recompense but for perceived loss of profits way into the future. (Expropriation)

David ended his talk by reminding us that this was happening on our watch. We are responsible for this world today and the legacy we are leaving for our children. Our task is to find ways of dealing with this issue and countering the propaganda.

Diana Sandy

At its January meeting, Hull FoE decided to try to produce a brief 'bullet point' summary of the issues behind TTIP for widespread distribution.



GREENSHARE NETWORK 3rd Annual Conference

Wednesday 18 March 2015, 10-3.30

At Lawns Centre, Cottingham (*buses 103/105 run into site*)

Topics include:

- ▶ Real Junk Food Café business model
- ▶ Energy Works
- ▶ Urban Agriculture
- ▶ Greening the City

And lots more workshops, discussion groups and stalls!

Costs include local food buffet lunch and refreshments

Individuals and not-for-profit organisations with no paid staff:£5
Not-for-profit organisations with 5 or less staff:£15
Not-for-profit organisations with more than 5 paid staff:£25
Public Sector and Private Sector £30

Early booking advisable as demand exceeded places last year.

Bookings via the Eventbrite website (a small admin fee is payable):
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/green-share-2015-tickets>

For info, or if you want to host a workshop, discussion group or book an information stand, please contact Sharon Clay or Helen Kay on 01482 613281 or email Sharon.clay@hullcc.gov.uk



BAMEEN
Black & Minority Ethnic Environmental Network

A Brighter Future Together

What we do

Bameen's activities centre on practical responses to environmental concerns and their communal impact.

Environmental concerns and activities have seen substantial growth among the community generally. The response among BMEs* has however been more limited. This leads to a situation where the social and economic benefits of these activities are not felt by minority communities to the depth they could be. The reasons for this lack of engagement are many but Bameen's concerns centre on these economic and social disadvantages. Bameen seeks to develop projects that will improve the wellbeing of minority communities and lead to greater integration with the wider community. By addressing issues such as recycling, food growing and health, Bameen believes it is also tackling concerns over skills and employability which has resonance and impact upon the whole community.

Growing food

Bameen is currently running an urban agriculture project supported by the European Union. This is a free course for unemployed BMEs in Hull to equip themselves in transferable

skills. It looks at why we grow food and the benefits, what skills do we need, organising and managing a grower's session, marketing and outlets for produce, building a business and personal development etc.

Energy saving

Bameen has also been working with charity Change Agents UK in the past three months on a Department of Energy and Climate Change programme (DECC) called the Big Energy Saving Network (BESN). Bameen deliver this through its network by offering personalised **free** advice that will help bring the cost of energy bills down. Bameen help community groups, frontline staff/volunteers or individual consumers make informed decisions about payment options, tariffs, switching and energy efficiency schemes. We delivered this programme on an assist action which means we help consumers towards concrete actions through advising and signposting.

Bameen's style of delivery is to put the issues out into the communities in a manner which is culturally targeted, and through meetings and

other events examine how acting on them can benefit communities. Bameen creates and strengthens networks between minority communities and with the wider community. Bameen's work is not so much about bringing attention to minority communities' environmental issues. It is more about drawing out from those communities through their traditions, skills and practices their own understanding of them. Through this work Bameen can identify weaknesses in understanding as well as help equip communities to better relate and engage with the environments they now have made their homes.

To contact us, please go to our website (www.bameen.org.uk), fill in our contact form and we will get back to you ASAP.

Dawda Jatta

*Black and Minority Ethnic



Investing in my roof

I had been thinking about getting PV panels installed for quite a few years, especially as my roof faces directly due south. In October I had a fixed term bond mature, and with the extremely low interest rates, I thought I might as well have my money on the roof—at least I'd get a better return.

Golden rule: get 3 quotes

I got 3 quotes: I contacted Richard Haworth about the company he had used for his house (See ECO May 2014) Duncan Renewables; I also contacted Pure Renewables; and at the Green Fair in November I made contact with Humber Energy. The last proved to be the cheapest, being about £1300 less than the other two.

Humber Energy were able to fit my panels in December—thankfully before the feed-in tariff went down.

Work begins

My installation was planned for a Monday, so the scaffolding went up on the Thursday prior while I was at work, and the team (2 roofers and 2 electricians) arrived on the Monday at about 8 am. I was most impressed with them—they were polite, even took their shoes off the first time when going upstairs, and cleared up after themselves! My house is quite modern so the installation was straightforward, and quick; the roofers had finished by about 11.30 am, and the electricians just over an hour later.

Some technical stuff

What you have, apart from the panels on the roof, is an inverter box in the loft (to convert the DC current generated by the panels into AC suitable for the grid and household usage), a couple of isolators so that the panels can be isolated if need be, and the generation meter, which is only a couple of inches square and not obtrusive at all. A cable runs down the outside wall from the loft (and inverter) and into the house again to connect to the fuseboard. The generation meter is next to the fuseboard in the kitchen, and it's quite interesting coming home after work when the sun has been out to see how many units have been generated.

And the bottom line...

The cost, for a 1.5Kw array of 6 panels (all I had room for on my small roof) was £2,950. They have a 25 year guarantee. Currently I get paid 14.38p per unit generated (the feed-in tariff). The assumption is made that I will use 50% of the amount generated myself, and 50% will be sold to the grid for which I get an additional sum.



PHOTO: Helen Wastling

Was it worth it?

People have asked how long the return period is, and I was told 7 years according to the calculations, but I'm just thankful that I'm able to generate some electricity and so reduce my carbon footprint, get a reduction on my electricity bills, and pass what I don't use onto the grid.

I also wanted to have hot water but that is more complex (you have to make sure your boiler is adequate) but I think I will wait until the prices come down, and/or I move house.

Go for it!

I'm happy with what I've got and would urge anyone with a (smallish) lump sum to consider having panels—you're likely to get a much better return than the banks are able to give.

Helen Wastling



PHOTO: Hilary Byers

Last summer, Hull FoE, Friends of Pearson Park, and friends of friends planted wildflowers and bee-friendly plants in Pearson Park.

Some of them have survived and some haven't. But look out for snowdrops and bluebells coming up in spring.

A bit of a cob-up!

On 1st and 2nd of November about 20 of us assembled in the wildlife garden in Pearson Park to build a pizza oven out of cob, an age-old traditional building material still used in many parts of the world. It was a very enjoyable community activity, with us all getting hands-on, and feet-in, experience. Unfortunately we forgot to protect it from the rain when we finished, and it collapsed, so we'll have to enjoy doing it again!

Hilary



Fracking update - 9 January 2015

Keeping up with events in the anti-fracking world is quite difficult. There are changes every day.

Keep checking on the web site www.frack-off.org.uk. You can also join a variety of Facebook pages; for Twitter, try Frack Off@Frack-Off. You can also join the email update contact list.

The date for the removal of the Crawberry Hill protectors' camp has been and gone and they are still there. We still need as many people as we can up at camp to

Also, if you would like to know more about getting involved in actions properly, a training day in Beverley by national Frack Off has just been announced:

Community Direct Action—A comprehensive introduction to understanding and taking direct action with your group. Including blockading techniques & action planning, safety and communication.

Sunday 25 January or Saturday 31 January. If interested please reply ASAP with your preferred date.

Events at Crawberry Hill will



give support. **We also urgently need spotters** who can go out in their cars to strategic areas to spot any potential vehicle movements associated to the rig convoy, and also to report on any road blocks or large police presence in and around the Walkington area, North cave, Newbald, Walkington heads (either end), Tickton, the A63 westbound towards the Humber Bridge or Hull dock areas.

If you can't do the above then we still need help to keep the protectors fed and watered, so if you are available to make hot drinks or happy to make a hot meal or sandwiches that would be great.

Please, if you spot anything don't forget to text or call the alert phone 07421 081717.

certainly have moved on when you read this. And there will probably have been new developments at the planned new sites for exploration at West Newton. You might like to take a trip to talk to the protectors' camp at Crawberry Hill. They are now under threat of eviction, but whatever happens they won't go far!

You might also like to look further afield. And not just at what is happening at the many other fracking sites throughout the UK. It is also worth noticing what is happening in other countries and politically. For instance...

► On 6 January the Guardian reported that the fall in prices for oil, now at \$55 a barrel, could cause the fracking money bubble to burst, as it

costs \$60 a barrel to produce oil by fracking.

- The issue of fracking is becoming a major debate factor in the upcoming state elections in Queensland, Australia: www.lockthegate.org.au
- France has an extended moratorium on fracking, thanks to the excellent work of anti-fracking groups there. But it is fragile. To explore their very useful material in English, including well thought out arguments for debate situations go to www.schistehappens.blogspot.co.uk
- Fracking accidents, statistics. If you need to frighten yourself or others a little more try <http://www.nofrackingway.us/2014/12/31/spill-baby-spill-kill-baby-kill-2014-in-fraccidents-and-frackastrophes/>
- In May last year a Colorado well leaked 80–100 gallons per hour for 30 hours. Much of this went into the Colorado river's largest tributary, the drinking water source for 35 million people. (And four endangered species of fish.)
- The USA's biggest methane "hot spot," verified by NASA and University of Michigan scientists in October, is only the most dramatic example of what scientists describe as a \$2 billion leak problem: the loss of methane from energy production sites across the country.
- In the USA fracking is putting more radioactive wastes into the environment than all their nuclear plants combined. <http://www.nofrackingway.us/2014/05/04/fracking-produces-more-radioactive-waste-than-nuclear-power-plants/>

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Yet more on the fracking scene...

Hull City Council on 20 November approved unanimously a motion opposing fracking. It noted a list of dangers, referred it to Scrutiny Committee, sent it to the government, and declared:

'This Council believes that the future for this region is in developing the potential of the green, renewable energy generation industry and moving away from depleting resources of fossil fuels that damage the environment and lead to climate change.'

East Riding residents now hope they can use this as leverage to move their Council to be more responsible in its dealings with exploratory companies like Rathlin and not merely rubber-stamp whatever they say.

- ▶ Oil and gas company Third Energy have announced plans to frack at their wellsite in the village of Kirby Misperton, between Pickering and Malton. They have also applied for planning permission to reinject contaminated water from a conventional drilling well into the sandstone. This technology has been used by fracking companies in the USA and has been linked to a higher level of seismicity and leakage of pollutants. Friends of the Earth is working closely with local residents from Frackfree Ryedale to oppose these proposals.
- ▶ The Government has introduced the Infrastructure Bill into Parliament. This draft legislation will (a) remove the right of landowners to be notified if horizontal drilling is being proposed under

their property and (b) allow drilling companies to dispose of their waste underground. You can object on <https://secure.greenpeace.org.uk/page/s/tresspass-law-fc>

- ▶ More Government measures to support the fracking industry were announced recently when the Government pledged public money for monitoring equipment to try to prevent groundwater pollution. Friends of the Earth questioned why this isn't being paid for by the industry.
- ▶ Apart from all the dangers, it is sometimes useful to look at the economics of fracking, and at the absurd claims made for it as an answer to our energy problems. http://www.i-sis.org.uk/US_Fracking_Boom_a_Fallacy.php
- ▶ **Community Direct Action Training**
Sunday 25 January 11am-6pm, in Beverley. A comprehensive introduction to understanding and taking direct action with your group. Including blockading techniques & action planning, safety and communication. Free. Contact www.frackfreeeastyorkshire.com/events to book your place.
- ▶ There are some good films and a song about Crawberry Hill on YouTube: *Are You Going To Crawberry Hill* (song). [I expect you know how to find things on YouTube; I only ever find it by accident!]

Hilary Byers

from various sources.



Wildflower seed kits from GROW WILD

DEADLINE FOR REGISTERING IS 14 FEBRUARY

Grow Wild has thousands of free seed kits for groups to share, so people can transform local spaces into beautiful, inspiring and colourful wild flower havens

Group leaders can join one of the UK's biggest-ever seed sowing campaigns and help to create over one million square metres of wild flowers in spring 2015.

Register to receive wild flower seeds native to your country

for you to share with people in your formal and informal group/s, including activity clubs, societies, work places, schools and neighbourhoods.

There are 120,000 free kits up for grabs and all you need to do to register on behalf of your group/s is fill in Grow Wild's simple two-minute form at:

www.growwilduk.com/register-seed-kit

Registration closes at midnight on 14 February 2015 and the kits will be sent out in late March, just in time for spring sowing.

Jenny Parsons

Treasurer, Transition Hull
<http://www.transitionhull.co.uk/>
01482 845356

The last Friday in November, National Tree Week, and all was ready for planting native trees and hedgerow shrubs with Y6 pupils from Stepney Lane School on the old railway embankment alongside Barmston Drain. This was the 4th time the school had taken part and the 12th event in this project since 2004, starting near Lockwood St Bridge. Over the years, the early plantings have grown into substantial trees despite the poor soil conditions. This last session involved 38 pupils with helpers from the school along with Hilary from Hull FoE.

Involving the local youngsters has several benefits. They're keen and even an unsure worker comes back a few minutes later... *Can I plant another?* The restless, uninterested classroom schoolboy gets on eagerly with the practical side of things, with a smile. Another uses the area as a natural playground.

I've built my den up there.

Is that what the planks of wood are for?

Yes.

Do you have a fire?

Well, that clears up a few issues. Hopefully a sense of ownership will take over.



Stepney school's Year 6 pupils plant trees on the embankment near Barmston Drain

Recently two residential organisations have taken an interest in the area: Emmaus in Lockwood Street and Restore and Resettle on Stepney Lane, both on the Barmston Drain corridor. Do they realise they have all but volunteered to do some planting?

David Longthorn

Fracking update
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- ▶ The Bulgarians continue to struggle to keep their country frack free. They have also been very alert to the links between plans to frack in places where the communities have said no, and the powers which TTIP will give to the industry to force governments to continue with the practice: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Fracking-Free-Bulgaria>

To end this round up I will bring us back nearer to home. **Crawberry Hill camp appreciates offers of cooked dinners, fruit juice and water.**

Contact them if you could help with the rota via :

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/crawberryhillprotectors/>

Angela Needham



SEED SWAP



Celebrate the end of
Winter!

Start planning for
Summer!

Share Seeds to save money and try different varieties

What's on?

- Swapping seeds in the hall 11am—1.30pm
- Speakers on the gallery 11.30am — 2pm
- Celebration performance 2pm—3pm
- Children's activities.
- Give us a call and get involved!

The Freedom Centre,
Preston Road, Hull HU9 3QB

Call: Andy Steele - 01482 710177

Saturday
7 March 2015
11am - 3:30pm





Hull Friends of the Earth

Hull FoE membership

I wish to become a member of Hull FoE <input type="checkbox"/>		PAYMENT	
I wish to renew my Hull FoE membership <input type="checkbox"/>		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 & send to Membership Secretary	
I WANT TO PAY BY STANDING ORDER <input type="checkbox"/>			
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 <input type="checkbox"/>		How do you want to get ECO? - by email (in colour)? <input type="checkbox"/> - in print by post? <input type="checkbox"/> Tick either, or both	
		We welcome your donations! 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. (See below...)	

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 Angela (details below) if you want to pay by Standing Order.

SUBS ARE DUE FOR 2015 BY 7 APRIL

Thanks to everyone who paid their 2014 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. And if you are inclined to forget, please take out a Standing Order (see above).

Thank you - everyone!

The AGM in April is a good 'thank you' time. So thank you to Ian for Chairing our meetings; he has now stood down and we are taking it in turns to be Chair. Thanks also to other 'unsung heroes' including Coordinator Sue who keeps us all in touch with each other and with national FoE, David who looks after the money (as well as doing such a lot for biodiversity), Angela who does the memberships, and Chrys who makes ECO look so attractive. And the rest of us can give ourselves a pat on the back too!

We are also on **Facebook**: To get to it:

www.facebook.com

Register—if you haven't already, and then go to the box at the top called "search for people places and things". Just type in "Hull

Friends of the Earth" and you are off! It will tell you how to get accepted into the group (Lee-Ann is the owner of the site). Alternatively existing "friends" on Facebook can invite you to join.

Hilary

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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