



## DIARY DATES

HFoE are considering a different meeting place before winter's cold sets in! We'll try to let everyone know, but if you haven't been to meetings for a long time, contact one of us (back page) before turning up.

### Tues 4 August, 7.30pm

HFoE meeting, *The Yard*, 204 Newland Avenue

### Sun 16 August

Sky Ride in City Centre: bikes get freedom of the streets!

### Tues 1 September, 7.30pm

HFoE meeting, *The Yard*, 204 Newland Avenue

### Thurs 10-Sun 13 September

Lots of Heritage Open Days!

### Tues 7 October, 7.30pm

HFoE meeting, *The Yard*, 204 Newland Avenue

### Thurs 15 October, 6.45pm

Tidal Power talk at Staff House, Hull University (see page 3)

### Tues 3 November, 7.30pm

HFoE meeting, *The Yard*, 204 Newland Avenue

### Sat 21 November, 10.30am

Green Fair, Freedom Centre, Preston Road

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Leeann holds the Hull Friends of the Earth banner with Green Party's Natalie Bennett at the anti-fracking demonstration in Preston Lancashire.

## All groups together as Lancashire throws out fracking application

I was proud to represent Hull FoE in showing support for local people in front of Lancashire County Council offices, as the planning decisions over whether to accept or refuse the fracking application for a site near Preston New Road took 3 days over 2 weeks.

A very large presence of people from all over the country joined the many local anti-fracking groups and kept up a good natured carnival atmosphere. Music and performers joined with locals, smiling police and masses of local and national Friends of the Earth members and staff.

Vivienne Westwood spoke and FoE's International campaigner Asad Rehman motivated the crowd along with Greenpeace campaigners and many local activists. TV cameras and crews swarmed.

We all gathered around a sound system to listen live to the decision. Nine out of 14 brave councillors of LCC voted to refuse permission on the grounds of noise and visual

impact. As the news broke that the application had been refused the atmosphere was incredible! However, there is almost certain to be an appeal.

## But Yorkshire is next!

Unfortunately, the attention has had to turn quickly to North Yorkshire, as Third Energy are trying to push through applications for Kirby Misperton near FlamingoLand. Up to 950 wells could be drilled in the area according to figures given by John Dewar, Director of Operations for Third Energy.

## Support your local groups:

Meanwhile, on 4 June East Riding Council Planning Committee voted unanimously to approve Rathlin's application for two more exploratory wells at West Newton. This despite 14 breaches of environmental permit conditions by Rathlin Energy at its existing well at West Newton. Campaigners are looking into whether there are grounds for a judicial review.

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# eco CHIT CHAT

## Eco is golden!

**Welcome to our 50th edition!** With the run up to the G7 in Paris in December it is appropriate that this edition focuses on the big issue of Climate Change; what others have said, what we do, and how we involve others. Whether you are thinking globally or acting locally (hopefully both) come and do it with us!

## Friends of the Earth at national level

is looking for community groups who share their values to affiliate with them. Are you in a community group that would like to work more closely with FoE? Do you know a community group that might be interested? Please send ideas and contacts to Carla: [carla.doran@foe.co.uk](mailto:carla.doran@foe.co.uk) / 0113 242 81 53. And please also let us at Hull Friends of the Earth know too! [sue@jolliffe.karoo.co.uk](mailto:sue@jolliffe.karoo.co.uk)

**Arctic drilling** is a disaster waiting to happen. Please support our Arctic Emergency Appeal and help Greenpeace protect the pristine Arctic from Shell's dirty and destructive drilling, due to start in July. [www.greenpeace.co.uk](http://www.greenpeace.co.uk)

**There is a petition** to let community energy groups sell their power locally (right now the government makes it impossible). The link is <http://www.1010uk.org/ourpower>,

**If you've got children to entertain** over the summer, check out Yorkshire Wildlife Trust's activities eg Flower Power—Tuesday 21 July, 10:30am – 12:30pm Pearson Park. Start the summer holidays by learning all about flowers and the insects that use them. Then we will get crafty taking inspiration from the incredible flowers we have learnt about.

**Food4Hull holds open meetings** on the first Monday of each month at Admiral of the Humber, Hull City Centre, 7pm to 9 pm where anyone can come along and enjoy an informal drink and talk with people who are interested in the issues around making our current food system more sustainable. **Volunteers are wanted** for a local Real Junk Food project — <http://food4hull.co.uk/>

**Hull Green Drinks** have now started up for an informal get together of all green-minded people, on the 19th of the month at 7pm in The Admiral of the Humber, HU1 2NT. Sign up to the mailing list to get reminders by emailing [hullgreendrinks@gmail.com](mailto:hullgreendrinks@gmail.com)

**Beverley Green Drinks** continues on the 13th of the month at the Green Dragon.

**Hull Permaculture Group** meet up regularly. [www.permaculturehull.org.uk/](http://www.permaculturehull.org.uk/) or contact Lausanne on 07816 141169

**"Hull Shall Overcome"**, Friday 2 October 7.00pm Ella Street Social, Newland Avenue. This Second Solidarity Session will be an evening of folk music, poetry and spoken word uniting the people of Hull around justice: justice for people and justice for the natural world.

**Transition Network** International Conference 2015; 18-20 September. Seale-Hayne, Devon. <http://www.transitionnetwork.org/conference-2015>

**Cornucopia** is East Yorkshire's friendly family festival on Fri 25 to Sun 27 September at Burton Constable Hall. Music, camping, good local food, Green organisations and craftspeople. Volunteer stewards wanted. [www.cornucopiafestival.co.uk](http://www.cornucopiafestival.co.uk)

**Regeneration in a City of Culture** is the title of a conference open to all, being held by the Institute of Historic Building Conservation in High Street Hull on Friday 30th October. Talks about proposals for the Fruit Market area, Holy Trinity, and the Castle St footbridge, a veggie lunch, guided tours and a ride on Scale Lane bridge as it opens are all planned. £30; some concessions for voluntary groups. Details from Hilary; [hilary@amskaya.karoo.co.uk](mailto:hilary@amskaya.karoo.co.uk)

*Spring into Yoga this summer*

**Wednesdays 7-8.30pm**  
Hull Unitarian Church, Park Street, Hull  
£5 per class, **FIRST CLASS FREE FOR NEW STUDENTS**

**Jude —**

PHONE: 01482 444455;

TEXT: 0777 937 1032;

EMAIL: [judeandgang@gmail.com](mailto:judeandgang@gmail.com)

# We test drive an electric car

If you are a driver, you might have noticed the increasing number of electric car charging points appearing at motorway service stations and wondered whether it's time to consider getting an electric car. At a talk by Iain Hyndman of Trenton (Hull) Ltd on 11 May, Hull FoE and Transition Hull members were treated to a close look at the Nissan Leaf, and in some cases a short test drive. Our questions kept Iain busy well into the evening.

At around £21K to £25K the cars are certainly not cheap to buy, although there are leasing arrangements. Currently the government is giving a 35% grant on new electric cars up to a maximum of £5,000. But the big saving is on fuel costs, estimated at about 2p a mile, and there is no Road Tax.

Most people will charge the car up overnight at home, so you need a suitable electricity supply and charging point; a 16v supply will take 8 hours to charge from 0 to 100%, a 32v supply 4 hours. What everyone wants to know is how far you can go between charges. Well the sales literature says 124 miles, but Iain thinks 80 to 100 miles is more realistic in normal driving. However, battery technology is improving all the time and he thinks the range will increase up to about 200 miles in the next 2 years.

When out on the road, your built in sat nav will tell you where the nearest charging points are. Increasingly they can be found in supermarket car parks as well

as at service stations and Nissan dealers of course, and the government are offering inducements to employers and local authorities to provide them on their premises and on the street. These are rapid chargers which take 20 to 30 minutes to fully charge, enough time to take a break with a cup of coffee. You can usually charge up at no cost.



Are electric cars 'green'? Well they produce zero emissions at the point of use, and are very quiet. The lithium batteries last about 5 years and are about 80% recyclable. But of course the main factor is how the electricity is generated. The contribution of all renewables to UK electricity generation was 14.9 per cent in 2013, an increase of 3.6% on the previous year. But this includes biomass (about 3% of the total generation) which is not always from sustainable sources. If you have solar panels and can charge up when the sun is shining you could certainly score green points!

Hilary Byers

## TIDAL POWER

**Hull Friends of the Earth** and **Transition Hull** present the second in a series of talks and discussions looking at low-carbon energy possibilities for the future

### ***Whatever happened to... Tidal Power***

**Professor Jack Hardisty** of Hull University

at Tranby Room, Staff House,  
Hull University HU6 7RX

on **Thursday 15 October 2015, 6.45pm**

Admission Free, All Welcome

Do you remember 'Neptune', the tidal energy plant which was moored near the Deep? A few years ago it seemed that the Humber was preparing to be a leader in Tidal Energy generation; what happened and what are the prospects now for generating some of our future energy needs from the tides?

Professor Jack Hardisty is a physicist and teaches programmes in Renewable Energy in the Department of Geography, Environment and Earth Sciences at Hull University. He is also Programme Director on the University's new Environmental Technology (Renewable Energy) MSc. His research focuses on the hydrodynamics modelling of Renewable Energy systems working in particular on the analyses of global tides and tidal currents, and tidal stream power optimisation systems. He is currently working on a major £0.25m research programme with industry developing the analysis of the effect of wave-current interactions on tidal stream power generation.

# Small is still beautiful

Angela Needham

I first discovered E F Schumacher in, I think, 1981 when I read *Small is Beautiful*<sup>1</sup>.

At a time when we were all being encouraged to believe in economies of scale, and transnational companies were first beginning to become the major power house in our part of the world, Schumacher was encouraging us to think small and local. At a time when charities and governments alike were looking for grand projects to turn around developing countries, Schumacher was talking about 'intermediate technology'—technology that was appropriate to the needs and situations of local economies and systems.

At a time when we were all about to be sucked into Thatcherite economics, the Schumacher Society was founding the New Economics Foundation. We have suffered now from decades of an economic system which mistakes a means of exchange for a commodity, and by doing so gives power to the banks, makes

our systems dependent on a debt economy, and continues to preach the need for growth in spite of the finite nature of our world.

From 1981 onwards the Schumacher society, and more recently the Schumacher Center for New Economics in Massachusetts, has continued to give some of the most important annual lectures on the need to transform economic social and cultural systems in a way that supports people and the planet.

*Small is Beautiful* was written in 1973 and I think it would be legitimate to say that it details all the ideas which have become crucial in our time. Its subtitle explains much: a study of economics as if people mattered. Schumacher recognised the need to avoid using up fossil fuels, he questioned the possibility of everlasting growth and denied that GDP was the best measure of a country's success.

Schumacher was German, but he studied here as well as in the USA and returned here to escape Nazism in the 30s. Some of his ideas found their first ground here. As Chairman of the Coal Board after the Second World War, he has often been considered one of the thinkers who were most responsible for our quick recovery from the war, (something we should not overlook today).

The Thatcherite era, with growth as the god, Nuclear MAD, international policies etc, fuelled holistic opposition and the development of his ideas in a variety of ways. When Blairite labour was returned to power, however, much opposition became government, and for a while it was not fully recognised that political and especially economic systems were now assuming that monetarism was the only way ahead. It took the recent bank crashes to get folk outside of the New Economics

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## Transition Hull news

### New developments at Constable Street Field

After a miserable start to the summer, volunteers have started sowing and planting the vegetable patch. The fruit trees are doing well and the first harvest is expected next year. The next project is the planting of a perennial maze, using a mixture of grasses and wildflowers, which promises to be an exciting venture.

The Council will install playground equipment later in the year, with new benches near by. Then plans will proceed for a fenced Community Garden.

### Family Fun Day

There will be a **Family Fun Day** on **Wed 12 August** run by Transition Hull in conjunction with Friends of

Constable Street Field. It will adopt the successful model from previous years, with traditional sports day races, creative activities for children, fancy dress, raffle and a gazebo with refreshments. We'd like to thank in advance all the volunteers who turn up to make this day a really enjoyable event. ■

Jenny Parsons

*Treasurer, Transition Hull*

[www.facebook.com/pages/Friends-of-Constable-Street-Fields](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Friends-of-Constable-Street-Fields)

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

01482 845356

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Forum and the Green Party rethinking their economics.

Schumacher's ideas have continued to be developed in certain fields. One of the most successful in actually making a difference to people's lives was the charitable organisation Intermediate Technology which subsequently became Practical Action<sup>2</sup>. This charity has designed and developed some brilliant small projects in many developing countries which have transformed the lives of the people there in ways which are sustainable (one of Schumacher's big words) and don't make them dependent on western/northern technology. If you give to developing world charities then

do seriously consider making Practical Action your major recipient.

Schumacher was involved in so many of the things which have created the foundations of what we might now broadly call the green movement—the Centre for Alternative Technology, The Soil Association and the journal Resurgence (now combined with the Ecologist) to name but three of the ones which have been some of the formative influences for so many of us, myself included.

We certainly need the Schumacher inheritance today, so I am thrilled to discover there is an organisation Schumacher North<sup>3</sup> seeking to spread the ideas of the

Schumacher Society and the continuingly brilliant Schumacher lectures, and that we may be able to welcome it here in Hull. So watch this space in the next issue of ECO for up to date info ■

<sup>1</sup> *Small is Beautiful: a study of economics as if people mattered* by F S Schumacher, published by Blond and Briggs 1973. An update with commentary was published by Hartley and Marks in 1999.

<sup>2</sup> [www.practicalaction.org/who-we-are](http://www.practicalaction.org/who-we-are)

<sup>3</sup> [www.schumacher-north.co.uk](http://www.schumacher-north.co.uk)

## Latest on TTIP

The European Parliament met on 8 July to attempt to pass a resolution on the EU-US trade deal TTIP. 480 organisations sent an open letter to MEPs to urge them to take into account the strong resistance by citizens. In June 1.5 million EU citizens signed the self-organised European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) against the TTIP and CETA (the EU-Canada trade agreement)

transatlantic trade and investment deals.

The resolution agreeing TTIP was passed, including the highly controversial Investor State Dispute Settlement *which allows foreign investors to sue states for compensation if they see their investment harmed by state actions*. Previous scheduled votes and debates had been postponed

because of MEPs being unable to agree on ISDS. By this time 2.3 million citizens had signed the ECI. The Stop TTIP alliance is calling for a European Day of Action against TTIP and CETA, on **10 October 2015**. **More info:** [www.foeeurope.org/served-by-ttip](http://www.foeeurope.org/served-by-ttip) <https://stop-ttip.org/>

Leeann Williams

GREEN GROUPS  
LOCAL CRAFTSPEOPLE  
FAIRTRADERS  
WILDLIFE GROUPS  
GROWERS  
RECYCLERS  
RENEWABLE ENERGY  
SUPPLIERS  
HOMEMADE PRODUCERS  
FRIENDS OF PARKS  
CONSERVATION GROUPS  
BUS/TRAIN/CYCLING/  
WALKING PROMOTERS  
JUSTICE CAMPAIGNERS  
ANIMAL CHARITIES  
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATORS  
ETC ETC

Promote yourselves and sell your stuff!

Hull Friends of the Earth invite you to have a stall at our

**Green Fair**

on Saturday 21 November 2015

at the Freedom Centre

Preston Road Hull HU9 3QB

Unload from 9.30am, open to public 10.30am

Stalls: £15 with a table, £12 if you bring your own

**Bookings start in September**

let Hilary have your contact details:

[hilary@amskaya.karoo.co.uk](mailto:hilary@amskaya.karoo.co.uk) or tel 01482 445747

## INGLEHOME ECOHOME OPEN DAY

Sunday 13 September, 12-4pm

Inglehome is a typically inefficient Hull terrace transformed in to a cosy, low energy home. It saves £3,000 and 5 tonnes of greenhouse gas pollution a year, and is the region's 1st Superhome.

You are welcome to visit, get inspired, and pick up some tips on this free open day.

There'll be rolling tours between noon and 4pm, so you can just turn up, or reserve a place via the Inglehome website:

<http://inglehome.co.uk>

*Richard Howarth*

84 Inglemire Avenue (2nd left off Inglemire Lane coming from Beverley Road), HU6 7TG

# Thorium: an alternative approach to sustainable energy production

Report by Rod Evans and Ian Jolliffe

**What if we had a nuclear fuel that was low risk, low waste, and sustainable? Surprisingly, such a fuel does exist: it is thorium. This was a talk organised by Hull Friends of the Earth and Transition Hull as the first in a series of talks and discussions looking at low-carbon energy.**

The talk was given by Professor Bob Cywinski, Dean of Applied Sciences at Huddersfield University<sup>1</sup>

The talk was inspiring and delivered with passion and expertise with a down to earth approach to engage the mixed audience.

Electricity production is still based largely on coal, producing large quantities of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) at c. 1000 g/kWh; contrasting with the average for the two lowest carbon forms of generation, wind and nuclear, both at 1.6 g/kWh. **Worldwide, electricity generation alone accounts for 30% of total CO<sub>2</sub> emissions or 10 billion tons/year.** The EU target of a 60% cut in total CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2050 is consequently very challenging especially given that population growth and increased power demands means that an extra 1 Gigawatt of power generation is required every **five** days!

**Wind generation provides about 11% of current UK electricity demand.** However, there are days when none is produced due to lack of wind; similarly, with photovoltaic solar panels, there are days when the sun doesn't shine! Energy storage options in the UK are limited; so with the current conventional nuclear generation capacity coming to the end of its life, something has to be done if CO<sub>2</sub> targets are to be met.

Conventional nuclear power has been based on the nuclear fission of enriched uranium. However, this route results in the production of highly radioactive waste which needs safe storage for thousands of years, and plutonium which can be used for nuclear weapons. **The primary motivation for the earliest civil reactors in the UK was the production of plutonium;** these have been dubbed as 'combined bomb and power' plants.

Conventional reactors need very sophisticated controls and safety measures to prevent overheating

and subsequent 'meltdowns' with the possible release of highly radioactive pollutants. **The public has a poor perception with concerns about secrecy, weapons proliferation, and safety with memories of Chernobyl, Three Mile Island, and Fukushima.** Finally, the ultimate energy resource from conventional reactors is constrained by uranium supplies. Although 'fast' reactors can use uranium far more efficiently, they pose many additional problems and so have never been used commercially.

**Thorium, on the other hand, is about four times more plentiful than uranium.** More significantly is that, weight for weight, thorium packs more than 200 times the punch as uranium (in conventional reactors). Even on very conservative estimates of thorium resources, it is reckoned that there is enough to satisfy total world energy needs for 10,000 years. **Moreover, it does not require enriching, decays to produce very little radioactive material that needs long term storage; plus it is non-fissile,** with the energy-producing reactions induced by interaction with neutrons. Consequently, introduction or removal of a neutron source can effectively switch the reaction on and off.

Professor Cywinski described how reactors can be made using either a small amount of a uranium isotope or a **neutron generator.**

The latter is Prof Cywinski's research area, and pilot systems have been produced:

- ▶ features of the reactors allow them to be intrinsically safe— reactions can be stopped, fuel can be drained out,
- ▶ they can also be made small—and so could be sited locally for community energy schemes.

## **So why aren't thorium reactors everywhere?**

The focus of earlier nuclear development was uranium based reactors due to the military uses as described above. Thorium reactors have been built, and the principle is proven. However, the technology needs updating; countries like India and China are pursuing advanced research programmes. In Europe and the US, systems have been developed, but need more research and long term funding

Much of the pioneering work was done by Alvin Weinberg, and his name lives on in the Alvin Weinberg Foundation<sup>2</sup>

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Prof Cywinski's conclusions were:

- ▶ "Thorium has been used in the past and could now be deployed in conventional, molten salt, Accelerator Driven Subcritical Reactor (ADS) and even hybrid MS/ADS reactors providing an alternative, sustainable, safe, low waste and proliferation-resistant technology for nuclear power generation.
- ▶ 780kg of thorium = 200 tonnes of uranium (as currently used) (and = 3 million tons of coal—FoE).
- ▶ No plutonium is used and very little is produced.
- ▶ After 70 years, the radiotoxicity is 20,000 times less than that from an equivalent conventional nuclear power station.
- ▶ Thorium systems provide means of burning existing legacy waste .
- ▶ Legacy waste and weapons grade plutonium can be mixed with thorium and burnt as fuel, reducing radiotoxicity by orders of magnitude and turning a liability into an asset".

An impressive talk and a potential way to cut our carbon emissions...we need every idea we can get!

Thanks go to HFoE member Francis Noel-Hudson who organised such an excellent speaker ■

<sup>1</sup>Professor Bob Cywinski currently holds a research professorship at Huddersfield University. He is actively involved in the development of new particle accelerator technology and acts as a scientific advisor to several national and international science facilities and institutions.

## 33 reasons to read the latest New Scientist

We need to be in a good position to explain to people why they should take action on climate change and how to do it. But most people find it hard to take specific action and may even remain sceptical.

There is an interesting article in New Scientist, 11 July 2015, by Robert Gifford, titled: ***The road to climate hell—33 reasons we can't think clearly about climate change***

Alan Worsley

## We've got to be relevant to people's lives!

FoE Basecamp was in the fantastic Hope Valley again at the superb Losehill Hall Youth Hostel in Castleton. This is the second year it has been held there and it was even bigger and better than last year. Over 450 people were present.

■ This was Andy Atkins last appearance as Chief Executive, and I thanked him for his support for the Hull group, especially his visit to Hull as part of our big energy event in March 2013. His successor, Craig Bennett, stressed how we need to escape from the white middle class ghetto.<sup>1</sup> We've got to make what we do and say relevant to people's lives. And FoE showed how in the sheer diversity and range of groups and people at Basecamp. More faith groups, more community activists, more creative people and craft sessions—such a vibrant but relaxed atmosphere.

■ George Marshall gave the John Preedy Memorial Talk on 'Overcoming Our Climate Blind Spots'. Author of 'Don't Even Think About It—Why our Brains are Wired to Ignore Climate Change'<sup>2</sup> he challenged us to break the mould and begin to talk to those we disagree with—find a way to communicate with them. This issue is too large to be overcome without a near total commitment across society.

■ Highlights included talks on local community energy (more to come on this locally). The Real Junk Food project were there again and made food for Saturday night. A UK 350.org<sup>3</sup> representative attended and spoke on divestment.

■ Lots of training on Climate Action, TtiP, GM food, Run On Sun and fracking. Interspersed with craft sessions, dancing, wood carving and music.

■ The big action was Don't Frack Lancs, as the big decisions concerning the next stage of fracking were coming up fast in the weeks after Basecamp.

Can't wait for next year!

Leeann Williams

<sup>1</sup>(<http://www.independent.co.uk/environment/green-movement-must-escape-its-white-middleclass-ghetto-says-friends-of-the-earth-chief-craig-bennett-10366564.html>)

<sup>2</sup> Guardian 23 September 2014

<sup>3</sup> www.350.org 'building a global climate movement'

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Please support Frack Free East Yorkshire and keep up to date with them and the other local groups on: [www.frackfreeeastyorkshire.com](http://www.frackfreeeastyorkshire.com)

**For more info:**

[www.maltonmercury.co.uk/news/local/fracking-wells-in-area-could-number-950-1-7159730](http://www.maltonmercury.co.uk/news/local/fracking-wells-in-area-could-number-950-1-7159730)

<http://frackfreeryedale.org>

Look up **Frack Free Scarborough** on YouTube for video of their recent public meeting ■

Leeann Williams

# Community gardens in Hull



## ***Edible Bed, Wilson Centre***

For the second year, Food4Hull, Hull FoE, Transition Hull and Rainbow Garden have planted up the Edible Bed outside the Wilson Centre in the City Centre. The idea is to show how easy it is to grow your own and how attractive you can make the plot look.

This time we made sure that the plants were clearly labelled. We have replaced some plants that succumbed to drought, and in July were handing out beetroots which were ready to harvest.

## ***Gioscope Gardens, by Gioscope***



When social housing company Gioscope bought a derelict house, 188 Coltman Street in Hull, they found it had a huge and very overgrown back garden, far too big for their tenants to manage. They fenced off what they needed and turned over the rest to a new group, **Gioscope Gardens**, to create an open garden for the local community.

They have cleared the undergrowth and sieved a huge quantity of rubble and broken glass from the soil; the photo shows the ingenious sieve they have devised. On the way



they have discovered the base of a fountain shown on plans from the 1880s when these were very grand houses.

They have made a start on building raised beds, but could find that they will be pulling up Japanese Knotweed for some time to come.

They can certainly provide plenty for volunteers to do. If you fancy a day spent helping Sharon, Clare and the volunteers, **ring Sharon on 07732244736.**

## The City Farm



The City Farm, behind the Kingston Youth Centre on Beverley Road, was officially opened on 26th June by Diana Johnson MP. About 1/3 acre, it is being established by Recycling



Unlimited, Hull All Nations Alliance and MIND to promote healthy eating and as a reference point for other community growing projects. A start has been made with vegetable beds, polytunnels and a chicken run. To come are bees and some experiments with growing veg that are less well known in this country. Volunteers are very welcome; **contact Greg at Recycling Unlimited on 01482 440235**

## Tunis Community Nursery



We have featured this garden reached off Sculcoates Lane before, when it was run by a partially sighted group. They have moved elsewhere, and now local people are maintaining it, with a focus on propagating plants for use in other community gardens and 'guerrilla gardening'



projects. They are especially keen to attract commercial firms, church groups etc who might want to contribute a day's volunteering. Here, John from Timebank builds a spiral herb garden. **Contact Lorna@homesoil.co.uk**



**Rainbow Garden**, off Levisham Close, Endike Lane, could rightly be called the 'mother' of community gardens, having been established by Jeannie Webster and local residents over 20 years ago, since when it has won many awards. Greenshare, Hull's network of over 50 green groups,

recently held their meeting in this most inspirational of gardens. Visitors and volunteers are welcome most days; **ring Jeannie on 07504292378.**

More about Greenshare from **sharon.clay@hullcc.gov.uk**

# A woodsman's tale...

Rohan is a member of Hull Friends of the Earth. A Sussex man originally, at 54 in 2009 he moved with his wife to Hull to take up a job after 20 years working as a doctor in Glasgow, during which time he was treasurer of Glasgow Friends of the Earth. When he mentioned that he was spending his spare time working on a wood he owns in Lincolnshire, I was intrigued and wanted to know more.

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## **What work are you doing to it?**

From 1 August to 31 March each year I clear the understorey from one quarter of my plot, ie 1 acre per year. As each acre is cleared, I put up temporary deer fencing, to protect the regrowth from browsing for the first 3 years. I have a 5-year contract with the Forestry Commission under the English Woodlands Grant Scheme which pays 80% of notional costs—in my case this covers

about half my travelling expenses, so I do lose money on it.

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## **Do you have any help with it?**

Family and friends have helped out, but clearing an acre in a wildlife-friendly way takes at least 70 man-days, so if the idea of a day in the woods using a bowsaw, loppers or a billhook appeals to you, give me a ring on 0792 520 1605. I never work on rainy days.

PHOTO: Rohan Lewis



Erecting a deer-proof fence in the wood

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## **How did it come about that you own a wood in Lincolnshire, Rohan?**

I was introduced to coppicing years ago through volunteering with the Sussex Wildlife Trust, and loved it. East Yorkshire turned out to be bereft of real woodland (the few small species-poor plantations maintained for pheasant shoots or dog-walkers don't count, in my view), but I kept an eye on the Woodlands.co.uk website to see if anything suitable came up for sale. Once I had visited the site, in North Lincs in 2011, and seen it was the real thing, I bought one of the 4-acre lots, although it was right on the limit of the distance I was prepared to travel.

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## **Can you describe what the wood is like?**

Lowland broadleaved woodland with dog's mercury (W8 in the National Vegetation Classification). Hazel, Ash and Sallow are the predominant trees, but there is a rich admixture of others. There are Roe deer, hares, rabbits, bank voles, woodmice, weasels... and unfortunately grey squirrels and Muntjac deer as well. Apart from the common woodland birds, a pair of short-eared owls comes every winter to roost in one particular tree, and I do see the occasional woodcock.

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## **What is your aim in the long run? Are you hoping it will have a commercial yield?**

According to a local farmer, this was once a classic English working woodland of hazel/ash coppice with oak standards. Then in the 70s or 80s the forestry commission bought it, cut down everything, sold the oak timber, and planted the whole 57 acres with Norway spruce. Fortunately (for the woodland) the crop failed on the heavy, wet clay and they took it out after maybe 20 years, abandoning it to natural regeneration. Now, the new coppice rotation should allow the bluebells to recolonize from the few patches which are left round the edges, and will hopefully attract the scarcer woodland birds such as nightingale and spotted flycatcher.

In the long term, the future of this traditional type of management will depend on whether a market can be established locally for the firewood and green woodworking products which it generates. I'm working on it.

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**Thank you, Rohan. I'm sure some of us would love to spend a day helping out!**

*Rohan Lewis answering questions from Hilary*

# WILDLIFE NOTES

## The wrong type of grass

It often comes up on Gardeners' Question Time, how to manage a community orchard to control the grass? I can imagine the scene, the grass is suddenly covering the site to a depth of over a metre after the rapid burst of growth in June. The determined managers cope with this by mowing at regular intervals to keep the length within prescribed limits with no regard to any environmental impact. The alternative is to let nature take its course and growth will slow down in mid-summer as the grass seed ripens and a single hay cut will leave the site clear for fruit picking in autumn.

The first option is recommended for commercial orchards to maximise yield and the second option

is for community orchards where yield is less important and labour is hard to come by. Variations on these extremes include the regular mowing of paths and activity areas around the trees. The second option also allows wildflowers to flourish and provide a more regular source of nectar for pollinators. Another approach is to replace the vigorous meadow grasses with finer lawn species. This works well in Sculcoates Cemetery North where some of the path edges remain uncut for the year and are alive with bees on the wildflowers and the growth of grass is no more than knee high.

David Longthorn

## ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE OUTWEIGH COSTS

ACCORDING TO ANALYST FERGUS GREEN, ADVISOR TO NICHOLAS STERN, IN A PAPER FOR THE GRANTHAM RESEARCH INSTITUTE ON CLIMATE CHANGE (AS REPORTED IN THE NEW SCIENTIST), THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS FOR A COUNTRY FROM TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE EASILY OUTWEIGH THE COST.

Nobel prize-winning economist Joseph Stiglitz says, "Creating a green economy is not only consistent with economic growth but could promote growth—especially when there's a lack of demand in the global economy". Better air quality, increased energy efficiency and better energy security are only some of the potential benefits.

So this latest research underscores again that the economic gains from cutting carbon emissions outweigh the cost, even before the ecosystem-saving benefits of preventing climate change are taken into account

Alan Worsley

## MAGAZINE REVIEW



I have subscribed to *The Land* for a couple of years now and have been impressed with the range, quality and depth of the articles, and enjoyed the charming woodcuts which illustrate the magazine.

*The Land* subtitles itself 'an occasional magazine about land rights' and I'm not sure that quite covers it. I have enjoyed news items and articles on agriculture, food, forests, fracking, megadairies, pasture, permaculture, rewilding, seed sovereignty, the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, water resources and many interesting book reviews.

Check out the website at [www.thelandmagazine.org.uk/](http://www.thelandmagazine.org.uk/)

Jenny Parsons



# Hull Friends of the Earth

## Hull FoE membership

I wish to become a member of Hull FoE <input type="checkbox"/>		<b>PAYMENT</b>	
I wish to renew my Hull FoE membership <input type="checkbox"/>		<b>Please note: subs are due by 1 April each year</b>	
<b>Name</b> (Mr/Mrs/Ms)		I enclose:	
Address		Membership or subscription fee (£5 waged, £2 unwaged)	£
		Donation	£
Postcode		<b>Total</b>	£
Telephone		<i>Please make cheques payable to:</i> <b>Hull Friends of the Earth &amp; send to Membership Secretary</b>	
<b>I WANT TO PAY BY STANDING ORDER</b> <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"/>		<b>How do you want to get ECO?</b> - by email (in colour)? <input type="checkbox"/> - in print by post? <input type="checkbox"/> Tick either, or both	
		<b>We welcome your donations!</b> 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. ( <i>See below...</i> )	

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 WERE DUE FOR 2015 BY 7 APRIL

Thanks to everyone who paid their 2015 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).

## Subscriptions: no rise!

It was nice to see 4 new faces at the AGM. Do come along to our other meetings and events! Over the last year our membership has stayed around the 60 mark but donations are less than the previous year. However, postage costs are down too as more of you read ECO online. So we are still covering our costs and **we can keep the membership fee at £5 waged, £2 unwaged for yet another year.** Must be about 20 years at the same rate!

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

[www.facebook.com](http://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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