

## DIARY DATES

**Thurs 15 Oct, 6.45pm**

Tidal Power Talk at Staff House, Hull Uni.

**Sat 31 October, 1pm**

Walk along Barmston Drain. Meet at Lockwood Street Bridge

**Tues 3 Nov, 7.30 pm**

HFoE meeting at Vintage Café, Chanterlands Avenue. 7 for 7.30pm (see right)

**Mon 9 Nov, 7.45 pm**

Urban Trees talk, at Boulevard Village Hall

**Sat 21 Nov, 10.30 am**

Green Fair, Freedom Centre, Preston Road

**Tues 1 Dec, 7 pm**

HFoE meeting at Vintage Café, Chanterlands Avenue. 7 for 7.30pm (see right)

**Tues 5 Jan 2016, 7 pm**

HFoE meeting at Vintage Café, Chanterlands Avenue. 7 for 7.30pm (see right)

# Hull Friends of the Earth are MOVING!



From next meeting on Tuesday 3rd November 2015 and for future meetings on 1st Tuesday of every month we will be at

## Vintage Café

209 Chanterlands Avenue Hull HU5 3TP

We'll meet up **from 7 pm** so we can have a chat and a coffee if we want before beginning the business promptly at 7.30 pm. We need to finish by 9 pm.

It is in the parade of shops close to the pedestrian crossing from Park Avenue.

Nº 3 Bus is every 30 minutes; bikes can be chained to the railings in front of the window and will be in sight; cars can usually be parked on the street or in the car park at the back of the petrol station near the railway bridge. If you arrive before 7pm the blinds on the café might be down but will go up very soon!

This venue should be much more accessible (and warmer in winter!)

*So if you haven't been for a while, or not at all, why not give us a try?*

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# GREEN

## FAIR

Saturday **21 November** 2015

### Freedom Centre (INSIDE)

97 PRESTON ROAD, HULL HU9 3QB  
Buses 3 or 4, "Police Station" stop  
Contact: Hilary Byers TEL (01482) 445747 EMAIL [hilary@amskaya.karoo.co.uk](mailto:hilary@amskaya.karoo.co.uk)

# ECO Chit Chat



## Bag for whose life?

Have you got used to taking your 'bags for life' with you when you go to the shops? It's remembering to put them back in your pocket/car when you have emptied them isn't it? But it's worth it to stop bags from ending up in the oceans. If you know someone who needs convincing, Marinet has a leaflet you can download and print off: [www.marinet.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/plastic-bags-really-so-bad.pdf](http://www.marinet.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/plastic-bags-really-so-bad.pdf)

PHOTO: MARINET



## The Hull and East Riding Food Co-operative

is a community buyers' group run on a not-for-profit basis for the benefit of local people. By pooling buying power and ordering food in bulk, direct from ethical suppliers, a group of people can buy organic and vegan food at a more affordable price.

Order forms are on the website:

[www.naturalfoodscooperative.moonfruit.com](http://www.naturalfoodscooperative.moonfruit.com)

For more information about the co-op contact Fynn, EMAIL: [naturalfoodscooperative@gmail.com](mailto:naturalfoodscooperative@gmail.com)

TEL: 07825221642



**Food4Hull** has moved its meetings to the Olde White Hart on Silver Street in the Old Town. Still 1st Monday in every month, 7pm to 9pm. Are you concerned about food quality, food waste, food miles, food poverty? Interested in growing your own, community allotments and other food growing projects? Keen to support local producers and suppliers, farmers markets, local breweries? Think cooking and nutrition are important? Want to know about new projects taking off in Hull and East Yorkshire? Come along. <http://food4hull.co.uk/>

For more information contact Lee-Ann [lee-ann@food4hull.co.uk](mailto:lee-ann@food4hull.co.uk) or Hilary Hamer [hilary@food4hull.co.uk](mailto:hilary@food4hull.co.uk)



**Beverley Café Scientifique** 'science for the price of a coffee' (or a pint?) meets on the last Wednesday of every month, 7.30 to 9.30 at Nellies (White Horse Inn, Beverley <http://www.nellies.co.uk>). They arrange a series of talks which are open to the public and aimed at engaging the general public in science, although many of the people who attend seem to have a scientific background. Contact Mark Lorch, [science.cafe.beverley@gmail.com](mailto:science.cafe.beverley@gmail.com) One talk scheduled for the New Year is 'Biomass, an old known source of green energy'.



**East Hull Community Farm** are looking for people who have an interest in learning beekeeping skills or have experience and knowledge to share. Bee meet-ups. Every Thursday 10am-12noon at East Hull Community Farm, Barham Road, Hull, HU9 4EE. Please call or e-mail Andy for more details 01482 710177, [andrew@emsyorkshire.co.uk](mailto:andrew@emsyorkshire.co.uk)



**Did you know that you can park your bike securely** at Hull Cycle Hub in Paragon Station (the old booking office) for **£1 a day**? Manned Monday to Saturday 8am to 6pm, but you can get a swipecard to give you access outside those hours for a refundable deposit of £10. You can also hire a cycle or an electric bike. [www.hullcyclehub.org.uk](http://www.hullcyclehub.org.uk)



**Green Drinks International** happens in 100s of towns & cities across the world, and are open & welcoming, free-form social events.

Hull Green Drinks is every 19th of the month at 7pm in The Admiral of the Humber, just across and around the corner from the interchange.

1 Anlaby Road HU1 2NT

Sign up to the mailing list to get reminders by emailing [hullgreendrinks@gmail.com](mailto:hullgreendrinks@gmail.com) with the subject, "mailing list". (Your email address won't be used for anything else, and you can unsubscribe at any time)



**Beverley Green Drinks** is every 13th of the month at the Green Dragon.



**Got something to sell on the Hull FoE Green Fair Stall?** Contact Hilary on [hilary@amskaya.karoo.co.uk](mailto:hilary@amskaya.karoo.co.uk) or 01482 445747

# Hull's Harvest FEASTival

Congratulations to everyone who set up and took part in the **Hull Harvest Festival** on Saturday 10 October in Queen Victoria Square. Wonderful food and interesting displays promoting locally grown and growing your own to a large and appreciative crowd.



Hilary Hamer and David Longthorn harvest produce from the Wilson Centre plot for the **Harvest Festival**. We have had a good crop of potatoes, celery and beans.

PHOTOS: Hilary Byers

## Day of Action on Climate Change

Francis, Angela, Leeann and Hilary of Hull Friends of the Earth joined in with the National and Global Day of Action on Climate Change on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October in Queen Victoria Square in Hull. We were asking people to sign a petition to the CEO of Barclays Bank, John McFarlane calling on Barclays to **stop funding fracking**.

In the private equity arm of Barclays, Natural Resource Investments owns 97% of Third Energy, who are the company which wants to frack in Rydale.

We had support from Hull People's Assembly, who come from a wide range of groups and organisations.

We were also joined by Elaine and Freda from Frack Free East Yorkshire. Altogether we gathered 199 signatures.



PHOTO: Leeann Williams

You can add yours by going to [www.foe.co.uk/act/tell-barclays-stop-fracking-north-yorkshire](http://www.foe.co.uk/act/tell-barclays-stop-fracking-north-yorkshire)

Leeann Williams

## EVENTS IN BRIEF

**Oppy Wood in Orchard Park**, meeting for those interested in its future maintenance: Thurs 22nd October, 2-4pm at Orchard Centre Orchard Park Road.

**'Regeneration in a City of Culture'**: day conference WISE Institute. Fri 30<sup>th</sup> October with visits to Fruit Market, Holy Trinity, Swing Bridge over River Hull; a few tickets left; £30 inc lunch from eventbrite. CONTACT: Hilary 01482 445747.

**Walk along the Barmston Drain** with David and Hull FoE members, Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October, meet 1pm at Lockwood Street Bridge. Come and see how the planting done by Hull FoE and local school children has made a difference to this industrial area.

**Trees Talk** Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November, 7.45pm, Boulevard Village Hall (*details page 6*)

**Green Fair** Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November at Freedom Centre Preston Road. 9.30am for stallholders 10.30am for public. This year we feature a Nissan Leaf electric car which will be on show outside; come and talk about how renewable energy can help electric cars to be a green transport for the future. Wishing Well and Home Educators will be putting on **activities for children** (adults need to stay with their children). The **Green Prosperity workshops** were popular last year and will be here again. And of course we will have good vegan and veggie food in the **café** (on proper plates this year!) and our live music, our popular raffle, and this year a **quiz** to see what you found out at our stalls!

*Some stall places left; contact [hilary@amskaya.karoo.co.uk](mailto:hilary@amskaya.karoo.co.uk) TEL: 01482 445747*

**Look out for Climate Change Events in December.** Contact Sue (details back page) if you want to keep up to date by email.

## TIMEBANK EVENTS IN BRIEF

Tues 20 Oct ..... **Tuesday Breakfast** – call for venue

Sat 24 Oct ..... **Hornsea Timebank Bring & Fix**, Floral Hall, Esplanade, Hornsea HU18 1NQ

Wed 28 Oct ..... **Meet & Greet Hull** – venue tbc

Sat 31 October.. **Beverley Breakfast**, call for venue

Tue 3 Nov ..... **Hornsea Drop In**, Crafty Coffee Shop

Sat 7 Nov ..... **Hull Breakfast Club**, call for venue

Sat 28 Nov ..... **Christmas Wreaths** (annual tradition) – venue tbc

Wed 9 Nov ..... **Hornsea Meet & Greet**, 10am – Crafty Coffee Shop

Wed 9 Dec ..... **Hull Xmas Do!** Venue tbc

EMAIL: [hello@timebankhullandeastriding.co.uk](mailto:hello@timebankhullandeastriding.co.uk)

TELEPHONE: +44 (0)1482 464 962 Mobile: 44 (0)7545696007

## Hull tree planting survey

**A survey has taken place by Hull City Council to identify the potential capacity of land in the city for trees, woodland and woody biomass energy crops.**

A total of 611 sites have been identified as having some potential and these have been consolidated into 42 broad areas of the city.

The preliminary results have identified the potential capacity for planting 26,676 standard/street trees, 80.49 hectares of new native woodland and 101.94 hectares of woody biomass energy crops. The results are intended to inform the planning process.

**A full tree survey is due to be undertaken at Pearson Park in Hull.** The results of the survey are to be used to advise a bid that will be made to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Potential cases of ash dieback continue to be reported in Hull and that there are probably going to be more than first thought. ERYC is also starting to slowly get more reports of potential cases relating to protected trees. Electronic reporting tools have been introduced to encourage the recording of potential cases by the wider public.

Info from HEYwoods [www.heywoods.org.uk](http://www.heywoods.org.uk)

# A local firm's view of the Feed-in Tariff reduction

The government proposes to reduce the standard Feed-in Tariff for small installations of solar panels from the current rate of 12.47p/kWh to 1.63p/kWh from 1 January 2016. This is an 87% reduction in the rate for small installations. It is also 96% lower than the original tariff of 43p/kWh established when the FIT scheme came into operation in April 2010.

Friends of the Earth asked its local groups to find out how this would affect the firms who carry out solar panel installation. Hull FoE member Rohan asked Chris Whitelock, Managing Director of Pure Renewables of Cottingham. This was his reply:

'As you might imagine it's become manic since the cut announcement with everyone wanting solar before the end of December; (another boom & bust government creation!).

It seems increasingly obvious that the government are supporting fracking at the expense of developing a robust renewables plan. The FIT has done a tremendous job of encouraging the uptake of solar but also in raising the awareness of solar generally. The solar

industry was supportive of working towards a non-subsidised scenario but it will take some time to create demand, increase supply and thus eventually drive down costs to a point where it's affordable without subsidies. In cutting it so drastically in January, we are going to end up with a huge rush on PV in the next 3 months (likely to be greater in capacity than the previous 12 months!). This will adversely affect the quality of installations (with lawsuits to follow probably), and drive up prices in the short term as suppliers and installers seek to get the most out of it while the sun shines (no pun intended!).

After that we face a dramatic drop off in demand. This will lead to the closure of many good businesses which otherwise would be contributing to the Treasury coffers and the reduction of CO<sub>2</sub>. If the government had instead stuck to the original plan of a gradual decrease in the FIT, they would have seen a steady, controlled, sensible growth of solar to a natural phase-out of the subsidy when the market matured.

Of course, solar PV is just one renewable technology and we wait with

bated breath to see what the stance will be on the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) next spring. It's worth strongly noting here that heat pumps represent a very robust method of heating homes and businesses in a clean and efficient manner. Heating represents the lion's share of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, via gas & oil fired boilers. Heat pumps emit zero carbon, are low maintenance and are incredibly efficient. It would be a further blow to the renewables sector if the RHI was withdrawn or drastically reduced. Heat pumps are also distinct from biomass (which is neither clean nor efficient) in that they stand up on their own merits. The RHI is a sensible method of supporting the uptake of this technology.

Unfortunately this government appears to be applying a short-sighted, short-term and bull-in-a-china-shop approach to renewables.

I would be very happy to continue to be part of this conversation as well as any lobbying of government.'

**Chris Whitelock**

[www.purerenewables.co.uk](http://www.purerenewables.co.uk)

**The Prospect Centre** has created a garden on the roof, tended by the staff. It's only accessible to people that work there, or by arrangement, at present. The tomatoes seem to be ripening nicely!

PHOTOS: Hilary Byers



## It ain't rocket science

It's that time of year again when leaves have to be swept up and cleared away. A gale earlier in the season had blown down a neighbour's fence at the wildlife area on Newland and I was having a look and commenting on the area of garden to be maintained. "Yes, it's getting more difficult as we get older and there's all the leaves from the trees to gather up and take to the tip."

I started on about the value of the leaves as a soil conditioner but it would have been easier to look at this side of the fence where the leaves stay un-gathered. In the orchard the heap of hay from the annual meadow cut will be used to mulch round the trees and spread in front of the bramble hedge to form a path. Leave something for nature to do.

David Longthorn

*Does the regular use of a blower to remove any debris explain why public rose beds are sinking relative to the surrounding concrete?*

# Transition News

► **The Community Growing Project** on Constable Street Field is applying for grants to install polytunnels on the field. They welcome anyone who can help in any way. Contact lausannet@yahoo.co.uk

► Transition Hull and Hull Friends of the Earth Talk:

## The Value of Urban Trees

A talk by **Professor Roland Ennos**

Monday 9 November 2015, 7.45 pm Boulevard Village Hall, Hull HU3 3EJ

**Admission free, all welcome**

**The Value of Urban Trees** will explore the benefits to us of urban trees, particularly how they cool the city (and people) down and help reduce the likelihood of flooding. Professor Roland Ennos plans to give real numbers about how useful trees are, which can help influence politicians to take them seriously.

Professor Ennos is Professor of Biological Sciences at the University of Hull. He is a plant biomechanic with a strong research record on trees, particularly in relation to anchorage and stability. He has special interests in the application of physical principles to the environment, particularly how vegetation influences, and is influenced by, urbanisation.

This is the fourth in a series of joint Hull FoE and Hull Transition talks organised in the run up to the Climate Change talks in Paris in December.

**Please note the venue: Boulevard Village Hall, not the university.**

# What next for thorium nuclear power?

Following our talk from Professor Bob Cywinski about Thorium in May, Hull FoE wrote asking for Friends of the Earth's support for thorium fuelled nuclear power to be promoted, as a potential contribution alongside renewables, to lowering the UK's CO<sup>2</sup> emissions.

Mike Childs of Friends of the Earth replied:

'Strong advocates of developing a new type of nuclear reactor powered by thorium rather than uranium suggest these would have a number of advantages. They say that the waste produced would only be dangerous for hundreds of years rather than the thousands of years as with uranium reactors. They say they would not bring the same threats of nuclear proliferation, nor the risk of uncontrolled melt-down and that thorium is more abundant than uranium. China has announced research into this area. India has been carrying out research for some time and the UK is joining-in on this. And Stephen Chu from the USA administration has said the Americans are looking at it too. It does look as though this technology may have some potential at some point in the future. However we also need to recognise that to avoid dangerous climate change and reduce our dependency on oil - which is running out - we must move fast,

especially over the next 20 years. Thorium nuclear reactors aren't going to be ready in time. We need to prioritise rolling out tried and tested renewable energy technologies and investing heavily in saving energy to reduce energy demand. A lot of research by independent experts - and the Government itself - suggests that we can provide all the energy we need in the future without having to use any nuclear power at all. But it's always handy to have something in the back pocket in case it is needed in the future. This is why it is useful to have research into new technologies such as creating transport fuels from solar energy, super cheap thin-film solar power and even thorium nuclear reactors. But please can we get on with the job of rolling out the green energy and energy saving measures that we already know now will work.'

Discussing this response, we felt that, while we agreed that energy saving and renewables needed to be the priority, (especially while the government seems to be undermining progress with these), there was a need for people to at least be aware of thorium's potential and for research to be given more support. We agreed to raise it again at the next Basecamp (national conference).

Hilary Byers

# Getting the wildlife survey bug

Hull FoE member Angela Needham can often be seen on Hessle Foreshore with her binoculars, but she is doing more than bird watching. Angela carries out surveys for the British Trust for Ornithology which help to increase our understanding of changes taking place over time to bird populations. I caught up with her to ask her more.

*H. How did you first get involved in doing surveys, Angela?*

A. I wanted to put my enjoyment of bird watching to good use. In 2007 the Trust were producing a new British Atlas of Birds. They needed large numbers of surveyors and had problems getting enough coverage of the more rural areas. I was living in Chester at the time, so it was quite easy for me to get into North Wales so I volunteered to cover part of that area. By the time the survey was finished I'd got the bug and wanted to do more.

*H. How do you carry out the surveys?*

A. The Trust divides the country into 1Km squares ('tetrads') The surveyor walks the area noting every bird they see or hear within a set time of one or two hours. I volunteered to do 2 tetrads. Then of course you need to send the findings back to the Trust. The value is in comparing the statistics over many years.

*H. You must need a good knowledge of bird calls as well as their appearance.*

A. It certainly helps if you are doing a Breeding Bird survey, which is one of the types of survey I do these days. You visit early in the season, when the males are singing to attract a mate and you can identify them by their call. You also need to know where each bird will breed, but of course we don't go too close or disturb them. Then we visit again late in the season and see if they are still around and whether there are young birds. I cover a 2Km square near Ganstead.

*H. What takes you down to Hessle then?*

A. That's the Birds of Waterways survey that I do all year round, but it's especially important from September to April when large numbers of birds come in for the winter. I cover the waterfront from Hessle Haven to the ferry port at high tide on one day in each month, recording the types and numbers seen. The birds are very susceptible to climate change and are a useful advance warning. We are encouraged to report anything unusual.

Sometimes we are asked to do a short survey of a specific species about which there is concern. House martins are a current concern and I have been counting nests in Bridlington. This involves looking carefully at people's houses (not through binoculars though!)



Angela spots a pochard, a stocky diving duck, smaller than a mallard.

*H. How do people react to that?!*

A. We have to be prepared to explain what we are doing. I encourage people to feel honoured that the birds have selected their house to build their nests under the eaves, and not to disturb them. I also tell them it's best to leave newly fledged birds alone if you find them on the ground; their parents won't be far away. The only exception is swifts which can't take off from the ground. It is best to take them to the highest building you can find nearby and throw them out into the air. They spend all their life on the wing, even when they are asleep.

*H. You seem amazingly busy!*

A. Well I've diversified now and I'm also doing surveys for the Bumblebee Conservation Society. There are 6 common bumblebee types in Yorkshire and several less common ones. There is even a 'cuckoo' bumblebee which steals other bees' nests. You need a day when the sun is out and there is not much wind to survey bees. I enjoy leading bee walks showing people how to identify them.

Then there are the Cetation Surveys, looking for Dolphins and Whales (though I haven't seen a whale yet).

*H. How do you do those?*

A. We do a ferry crossing from Immingham every other month and occasionally from Hull. There is an arrangement with the ferry companies that allows a pair of surveyors free accommodation and access to the bridge. We record birds at the same time. Unfortunately we also see an awful lot of discarded plastic. I do wish people wouldn't release balloons over the sea as they do end up in the stomachs of marine creatures.

**H. Well you manage to fit in an awful lot, as well as being one of our most active Hull FoE members. I'd better not hold you up any further!**

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**Hilary Byers, interviewing Angela Needham**



# Hull Friends of the Earth

## HULL FOE MEMBERSHIP

I wish to become a member of Hull FoE <input type="checkbox"/> I wish to renew my Hull FoE membership <input type="checkbox"/>		<b>Payment</b> <b>Please note: subs are due by 1 April each year</b>	
<b>Name</b> (Mr/Mrs/Ms)		I enclose:	
<b>Address</b>		Membership or subscription fee (£5 waged, £2 unwaged)	£
		Donation	£
<b>Postcode</b>		<b>Total</b>	£
<b>Telephone</b>		<i>Please make cheques payable to:</i> <b>Hull Friends of the Earth</b> , and send to the Membership Secretary ( <i>address below</i> )	
<b>Email</b>			
<b>I WANT TO PAY BY STANDING ORDER</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 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 ( <i>details below</i> ) 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 <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"/> <i>Tick either, or both</i>	<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> )	
<b>Subs will be due before 1st April 2016. Pay now and you will get them at this year's rate!</b> <b>You could pay on our stall at the Green Fair.</b> 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 ( <i>see above</i> ).			

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.

## 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

<b>Coordinator:</b>	Sue Jolliffe, 47 Kingsway, Cottingham, HU16 5BB	Tel: 845958 Email: sue@jolliffe.karoo.co.uk
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<b>Web:</b>	www.hfoe.org.uk or www.foe.co.uk/hull	Email: jolliffe@jolliffe.karoo.co.uk