



Diary Dates

Tues 3 February

7.30 upstairs Pier Luigi Princes Ave. Hull FoE meeting

Mon 23 Feb to Sun 8 March

Fairtrade Fortnight. Events being planned including tasting in Chants Café, Chanterlands Avenue Hull; see website or publicity.

Thurs 26 Feb

7.30 HFoE discussion Group 170 Victoria Ave. Hull

Tues 3 March

7.30 upstairs Pier Luigi Princes Ave. HFoE meeting.

Sat 14 March

Transition Towns Initiative event, 2pm to 6pm at Boulevard Village Hall, Boulevard, Hull.

Thurs 26 March

7.30 HFoE discussion Group 170 Victoria Ave. Hull

Tues 7 April

7.30 upstairs Pier Luigi Princes Ave. HFoE meeting **and AGM**

What do you think HFoE should be doing? Do you have skills to offer? Come and tell us.

Sat 25 April

Wildflower planting 11 am-2pm at Sculcoates Cemetery.

Thurs 30 April

7.30 HFoE discussion Group 170 Victoria Ave. Hull

Tues 5 May

7.30 upstairs Pier Luigi Princes Ave. HFoE meeting

Sat 16 and Sun 17 May

FoE Northern Gathering, Manchester Youth Hostel. Contact us for further details.

Thurs 28 May

7.30 HFoE discussion Group 170 Victoria Ave. Hull

Transition Towns

For news of meetings and events contact Sarah on 07815 928 012 or email: transitionhull@yahoo.com

Beverley FoE

3rd Thursday each month at White Horse (Nellies) Beverley, 7.30. The Beverley Green Fair Committee has decided to **postpone** the Fair this year to provide space for the committee members to work with other green events in the area. Contact: shan@voice-international.net

Together we've done it!



A huge thank you to everyone who has supported us on our Big Ask campaign. Together we have finally got a strong climate change law.

In November Parliament voted for the world-beating legislation after a three and a half year campaign by Friends of the Earth. The first of its kind in the world, the law is a huge step in the fight against climate change. The Law commits the Government to 80% cuts in the UK's emissions of greenhouse gases by 2050. It includes emissions from aviation and shipping and has annual targets along the way to keep us on track.

This really is an astonishing achievement—thank you. You helped make this happen!

Save Our Seas Lobby your MP

We need every single reader to visit or write to their MP to ask them to **sign Early Day Motion 337**. See the enclosed leaflets from **Marinet**, the campaign to get highly protected marine reserves to allow the sea bed to recover from over exploitation.

Beverley and Hull FoE groups have taken a lead on this campaign and it is a great achievement to get an amendment to the Marine and Coastal Access Bill introduced. Now we need about 200 MPs to sign the EDM to stand a chance of success.

Lobbying really does work. Think of the Big Ask campaign and what it has achieved with the Climate Change Bill. Your letter can be short; just borrow a few sentences from the leaflets. But don't forget to start by saying **'Please sign**

EDM 337. A visit to your MP's surgery is even better.

Bill Rigby (bill@voice-international.net) can advise, or you can visit www.marinereserves.org.uk and click on "write to your MP".

In this issue

<i>Diary Dates</i>	1
<i>Climate Change Bill</i>	1
<i>ECO Chit Chat</i>	2
Goodbyes , by Julie Venner	2
<i>Marine Bill at the Deep</i>	3
<i>News + photos from Sierra Leone</i>	4
<i>Yorks & Humber Local Groups</i>	4
<i>Stern + Lovelock on climate change</i>	5
<i>Wildlife notes</i>	6
<i>Interview with Sarah Morris, Transition Towns</i>	6-7
<i>Answers to Environmental Xword 4</i>	7
<i>Hull FoE membership</i>	8
<i>Hull FoE contacts</i>	8

ECO CHIT CHAT

Plenty of Green Shoots here!

🌱 **Our Green Fair in November** was our most successful yet, with more organizations and craftspeople wanting stalls, more people through the doors and increased income. The Green Fair is always a big team effort, but special thanks must be given to our very versatile musicians, to Debra and Ann who ran the children's activities, and to Sharon's kitchen team who organized the wonderful food. Most of the food was organic, locally grown or Fairtrade, and we thank Arthur Street Trading, Grain, Southwood Farm Shop in Cottingham and Sharon and Mike's allotment for many of the ingredients, and, of course, everyone who donated the delicious cakes.

🌱 Amidst all the gloom about shops closing, it is good to see that **Grain** on Newland Avenue has recently expanded.

🌱 There should be plenty of green shoots next to the **Barmston Drain** after more than 20 people turned out in November to plant **trees**. Come and join us on Saturday 25 April in **Sculcoates Cemetery**, off Sculcoates Lane, when we will be planting **wild flowers**.

🌱 We have suggested to the City Council that the Barmston Drain in Sculcoates and where it goes through Princess Elizabeth Playing Fields, and Sculcoates Cemetery, could be made into **Nature Reserves**, in addition to supporting the suggestions made by consultants of Rockford Fields, Bransholme Fishing Lake and the railway 'triangle' off Calvert Lane.

🌱 There should be green shoots on our **Hull FoE allotment** too, once we have tidied up the raised beds and planted this year's crops. We welcome donations of any spare seeds or plants, and especially of time anyone might have to help make new beds.

🌱 Food is the subject of a major FoE campaign this year, promoting the **Sustainable Livestock Bill**. Other campaigns will focus on getting Councils to sign up to being **Low Carbon Communities**, and preparing for international action in **Copenhagen**. Look out for more details to come.

🌱 Locally, we are following up an exciting possibility for recycling those annoying **plastics** that at present can't be put in the black boxes. More details to come on this too, we hope.

🌱 The **Transition Towns Initiative** are encouraging people to exchange their skills. More information at an event to be held at Boulevard Village Hall [near the new fountain] Hull, on Saturday 14th March from 2 to 6pm.

🌱 Finally, have a look at our bright green new **website** on www.hfoe.org.uk. This has our latest news, photos of us in action and contact details. Let us know what you think.

Hilary

Goodbyes

When skin cells die, they are reborn
as particles of dust,
and we come from dust, they say.

When animals die
they feed you, or me, or the earth,
and make new life.

When a species dies,
it leaves a hole
we try to cover with our hands.

More holes appear,
stretching life thinner and thinner
across the world,

until at last,
there are more holes than hands —
and hungrily

they eat each other,
until it is that gaping hole
that eats us.

Julie Venner

Deep questions for Marine Bill

The Minister for the Natural and Marine Environment, Wildlife and Rural Affairs, Huw Irranca-Davies, spoke at The Deep on 7 January about the new Marine Bill and took questions.

He had a good deal to say about the importance of Hull and the surrounding area, especially about the port and the fact that 600 million metric tons pass through it yearly. He said that 1/4th of tourists coming to England arrive by sea, some, of course, arriving in Hull. 14% of our international trade occurs at Hull's port.

It seems that when the ports were established at Hull and Immingham there was much public protest on environmental grounds, but in the end even more protected areas for birds and wildlife were established than existed before the ports. He used this as one example of the cooperation that can be achieved between industry and environmentalists.

He spoke about the crowded nature of our seas, but said that wind farms can be compatible with shipping routes.

He talked about the bill as being groundbreaking and ambitious. It is to be seen as a framework for which details will be added later by working with the stakeholders.

The title of the bill is **Marine and Coastal Access**, as he envisions a coastal path running right around the UK. He said that not all of the Marine Conservation Zones will be highly protected and he will not designate those that will be; we should identify them. He is merely supplying the tools, now the people can get on with it.

He quoted the motto of his school "I should, I can, I will" as his mode of operation. He said the bill will extend the frontiers of Marine protection and that it was necessary to provide this bill now because if we don't act now then there might have to be more severe restrictions in the future. He said the bill provides a strategy for issuing licences connected with the sea, which up to now has been on an individual basis. The bill is now in the Lords and they are grappling with the Coastal Access part which means giving compensation to people who will have to give up some of their property to the coastal path.

In the Q&A session he made the following points.

- ▶ First, that the Marine Bill has to work in conjunction with the new Planning Bill. Existing Science is not perfect as regards the sea; he hopes the bill will help science advance.
- ▶ He doesn't want to place any time limits in the bill.
- ▶ The bill will be compatible with the EU legislation, but the EU has to reform its Common Fisheries Policy and Britain is leading the reform movement.

- ▶ There will be a Marine Management Organisation which will oversee the bill, but the Secretary of State (Hillary Benn) has the final word.
- ▶ The MMO will, however, be an independent body and will draw in material from universities, industry, NGOs, etc.

My question to the Minister was based on a huge spread in The Economist about the perilous state of the world's seas, in which the cure was advanced as being "bigger and better marine reserves." I said the current bill does not provide these and that Marine Conservation Zones will not protect the sea the way Highly Protected Marine Reserves (Marinet's position) would and asked his opinion of HPMR. He said that not all of the sites would be highly protected, as not all of them need to be. I mentioned the sites they have already designated which are hardly protected at all.

Bill (Rigby) also asked a question, and had the good idea to place on every seat a printed copy of our position along with our website address which is www.marinereserves.org.uk

The meeting was attended by 3 Marinet officers, including myself, some Hull FoE members, university people, port people, fishermen, rambblers, and the general public.

Haris

Is Hull's proposed incinerator already redundant?

Up to half the country's domestic gas heating could be met by turning waste into biogas, according to a new report from National Grid. The report looks at how all the biodegradable waste streams such as sewage, food and wood could be turned into biogas and injected into the gas distribution system.

This would be more efficient than using the gas to generate electricity. It would also be an alternative way of dealing with waste to landfill or incineration.

"Biogas has tremendous potential for delivering large scale renewable heat for the UK but it will require Government commitment to a comprehensive waste policy and the right commercial incentives," said Janine Freeman, head of National Grid's Sustainable Gas Group.

The report has gone to Ed Miliband, Minister for Energy and Climate Change.

<http://www.nationalgrid.com/uk/media+centre/documents/biogas.htm>

News from Sierra Leone



Our contact in Sierra Leone Friends of the Earth, Olatunde Johnson, has confirmed that they have received the funds we sent towards the new medical centre, and he will be keeping us in touch with progress. He has sent photos of their group. Olatunde tells us that before Christmas he visited the Kabala district in the north of Sierra Leone at the invitation of a chief of that

district, to explain to local people about the vegetable growing projects being undertaken by FOESL. Unfortunately, due to polluted drinking water and mosquitoes, he was taken seriously ill and was only able to return in the new year. We hope you are now fully recovered, Olatunde.

Hilary



Olatunde (on the right) and colleagues preparing their composting site. Comfrey is growing in the background.

Lettuce for seeds, peppers and other vegetables including long tomatoes.

Yorkshire and Humber Local Groups Gathering – Jan 09

This year there were 43 people from 12 local groups and we nearly had to sit on each other's knees!

News

Louise Hazen has gone to another area and we are now being looked after by Rachel Hubbard until a new Network Developer appears. Northern Gathering will be at Manchester Youth Hostel 16-17 May. **Local Groups Conference has been cancelled.**

Regional strategy

Our Campaigns Co-ordinator Simon Bowens gave us a talk about the FoE Regional Strategy.

These are the long term plans specifically tailored for our region covering Climate change,

Biodiversity, Sustainable Economies and Resource use, Rights, etc.

It involves ongoing consultation with local groups and members and a partnership of individual group members has been formed—the 'eyes and ears' in the region.

The strategy will be completed by April.

2009 campaigns

Three major campaigns dominate 2009. All of them targeting enormous global issues which also affect every one of us:

» Food Chain

This campaign aims to change the way meat and dairy is produced in the UK. For example -soya production for animal feed is causing major

problems specifically deforestation in places like Brazil and Paraguay.

» **Local Government Working title** (was the Low Carbon Communities Campaign).

Aims to secure commitments to lower CO₂ emissions in 50 places in England and Wales by building support with local councils and demonstrating what can be done.

» Copenhagen

The Kyoto Protocol to prevent climate change runs out in 2012. In December the UN is holding the next Climate Conference in Copenhagen. The plan is to establish an ambitious global climate agreement for the period from 2012. FoE Groups will draw the public's attention to this crucial issue.

Lee-Ann Williams

New Scientist highlights on climate and GM

The New Scientist has many good environmental articles (see www.newscientist.com). Here's some interesting opinions from world experts on climate: **Stern and Lovelock**, in New Scientist 24/1/09.

Nicholas Stern

"The green economic revolution must be launched within months" is the comment on Nicholas Stern's article p26 (Nicholas Stern was the author of the Stern Review on the economics of climate change in 2006). Stern says that Greenhouse emissions are growing more quickly than projected **and** the ability of the planet to absorb those gases now appears lower than was assumed!

He comments that the target for CO₂ equivalent concentrations in the atmosphere should not exceed 500ppm (rather than the maximum of 550ppm in the Stern Review) to ensure that average global temperatures don't rise by more than 4°C above preindustrial levels. He estimates that global emissions must peak within the next 15 years before falling to **half** their 1990 level by 2050. He considers that the cost of doing this is manageable (about 2% of GDP each year). The UN convention on Climate Change in Copenhagen in December this year will hopefully set targets that will move towards this.

Stern says that innovation is advancing in many areas faster than expected in 2006 but needs to be accelerated, which requires the provision of incentives and removal of barriers. In particular, we must:

i) Spread the existing low carbon technologies eg green household appliances

ii) Give more support to the development and scale-up of technologies that could become viable in the next 15 years. He's particularly keen on carbon capture technologies, and the need to run demonstration projects to evaluate it

iii) Make more effort to stimulate new breakthrough technologies funded in part by a well functioning global carbon market. And with interest rates low it's a good time for investment in projects on energy efficiencies so we are ready for economic recovery when energy prices increase again!

James Lovelock: **"We're doomed—but it's not all bad"**

There is an interview with James Lovelock who is 90 this year, on p30. (James Lovelock's work on CFCs damaging the ozone layer led to their being banned and he is the originator of the Gaia theory).

Here's a summary of some of the key comments.

- 1 Can a similar thing be done with carbon emissions (as was done with CFC) to save ourselves from climate change? "Not a hope in hell". Considers carbon trading is just what finance and industry wanted and won't do a thing for climate change.
- 2 Carbon sequestering – "waste of time".
- 3 Nuclear power as a solution for climate changes? "A way for the UK to solve its energy problems, but it's not a global cure for climate change. It is too late for emissions reduction measures."

4 "There is one way to save ourselves and that is through the massive burial of charcoal." This would pull carbon levels down fast and would be profitable for farmers. It would be based on farmers turning all their agricultural waste, which contains carbon that the plants have spent the summer sequestering and burying it in the soil. Farmers would burn their crop waste at very low oxygen levels to turn it into charcoal, which is ploughed into the field, some small amount of bio energy would also be produced which would make it pay for the farmers.

5 He thinks that with a 4°C rise in average global temperature, we would not survive with even one tenth of the population and expects that the "cull during this century is going to be huge" with only a billion or so left!

6 He doesn't think we can react fast enough—cites Kyoto being 11 years ago with, in his opinion, nothing done except "endless talk and meetings".

Well that's cheered us all up—but hopefully it will stimulate some action!

How about this on GM! (p6)

The US is thinking of blocking the import of foreign GM foods into their country. They are concerned about the monitoring and controls on GM crops in particular from India, China and Brazil where research into these crops is exploding, and how they may enter the US undeclared.... Sounds a familiar concern!

Ian Jolliffe

Wildlife Notes

The old track suit bottoms have come in useful. It's a while since we have had a harsh winter and this weather should help to clear out a few pests.

A lucky break in the wet weather allowed the tree planting on Barmston Drain to go ahead in relative comfort. A good crowd of volunteers turned up: the usual stalwarts, members of the Wyke Area Committee and new faces from the Transition



Town group. This was the sixth event held over the past four years and gives a total so far of about 600 native hedgerow bushes and trees.

Recently the Sculcoates area was put forward for an award in the National Association of Neighbourhood Management. The entry was awarded second place for efforts with the green spaces in the area, Sculcoates Park, Barmston Drain and Sculcoates Cemetery.

The next planting session is scheduled for Saturday, 25 April, from 11.00am to 12.00 noon, in Sculcoates Cemetery.

This one-time haunt of Philip Larkin is gradually being restored as a Victorian cemetery with useful family records, a place of quiet contemplation and a valuable wildlife area. The aim will be to plant wildflowers to improve the biodiversity of the site.

David Longthorn

Transition Towns and ethical spring cleaning

Hilary Byers talks to **Sarah Morris**

Sarah Morris is involved in the newly formed local Transition Towns group. She also runs a cleaning business using ethical cleaning products. Hilary called to find out about the latest activities of the Transition Towns movement, and pick up some cleaning tips.

From your accent, Sarah, I'd say you are not from Hull. What brought you here?

I was bored in West Wales! A friend suggested coming to Hull and I've found that the area around Princes and Newland Avenue has all the things I like. It has good local shops especially charity shops and there's a good sense of community on Newland Avenue. Hull's flat enough to cycle everywhere and it's relatively cheap to live here. I think Hull is one of the UK's best kept secrets; I love living here, and it's quite a beautiful place to live.

How did you get interested in the Transition Towns movement, Sarah?



Photo of Sarah by Hilary Byers

My friend, Steve Dales first came across the movement in a leaflet at a festival, where he met Steve Hall and shared with him this information. (Steve Hall is a member of the local group and Community Composting Officer for the East Riding.) They exchanged details and we got a few

people together to start something similar here. (see transitiontowns.org and transitionculture.org)

Hull Eco has had a previous article about the Transition Initiative (Issue 22 July 2008), but what does it mean to you, Sarah?

Basically it is about exchanging knowledge and skills so that we are prepared for when the cheap oil runs out and we have to depend much more on things we can produce locally. It's about creating community resilience and setting up enterprises to meet the needs of the community. An enterprise that I can see really needing setting up is kitchen composting. I am currently learning organic growing skills on Gwen's organic farm one day a week. I think that oil has become a bit like a drug to us; we are addicted to using it and it is damaging our health.

A recent Transition Towns event about a community pulling together was well attended, wasn't it?

Yes, on 9 November we showed the film 'Power of Community' at the Spring Bank Community Centre. This tells how Cuba survived the blockade which prevented oil and goods reaching their country, by communities pulling together to grow food on every bit of spare ground and produce for themselves the things they needed. There were some people in the audience who had lived in Cuba, so we had a very interesting discussion. We will be following up the contacts we made with people and involving them in future activities. We are currently planning another event within the next month or so and having our own fanzine style magazine, that we are calling a Tranzine; all contributions welcome. Contact transitionhull@yahoo.co.uk

How did you come to set up cleaning people's houses, and how is the way you clean different from what others do?

I had done similar work before I came to Hull. I particularly wanted to use materials that would not damage the environment or our health, so I make my own cleaning materials. For instance, for a bathroom cleaner I use BioD washing up liquid (which is made in Hull) as a base and add citric acid (which you can get from Indian and Continental Stores), Tea Tree essential oil and water. Many of the materials I use are really just rediscoveries of traditional old-fashioned methods that I learnt from my mother. For example, soda crystals work well for getting carbonized food off cookers, and diluted vinegar is good for cleaning windows or getting grease off cooker hoods. Using natural materials is often better for people who have allergies (although you have to be careful using any kind of spray if someone has asthma). I also have a huge selection of rags and tea-towels for cleaning, drying and wiping to get that sparkling green clean finish (these get washed in BioD nappy fresh).

I was very grateful to Grain Whole Foods and Arthur Street Trading who helped me publicise my business at the beginning through flyers in their veg box scheme.

Are you still looking for customers?

I've actually got enough customers at present but I am starting a 'Green Your Home' service where I can come to your home and demonstrate how to clean your home the green way; how to make your own cleaning materials and various other tips. I can also provide workshops and training on how to start your own green cleaning business. I also have advanced and university diplomas in Interior and Three Dimensional Design, (my personal interest in this field, of course, is in the environmentally friendly direction) so I can also give advice in that field. (Phone 07815928012 for more information from me)

Any more hints for my spring cleaning?

If you've got a lot to do, break it down into small tasks and do the worst first. That way you will feel encouraged by being able to see the improvement and be less likely to give up.

Old toothbrushes are useful for cleaning taps and getting into

corners. Allow cleaning solutions to do their work and leave them soaking on limescale, for instance

A soft one inch decorators brush is handy for dusting delicate objects and getting into difficult corners.

Thank you Sarah, and keep us informed about future Transition Towns events.

Hilary



Recommended books

What's in this Stuff by Pat Thomas ISBN 1-4050-9549-0. It's available at the library on Chanterlands Avenue. Tells you not only what is in the products we use on ourselves and around our home but alternatives to them.

Green Clean L&K Designs 2007, ISBN 978-1-84397-893-0. A good, to the point book to keep to hand in the kitchen.

Answers to Environmental Crossword Number 4 by Chlodowig

M	O	B	Y		I	N	F	L	A	T	A	B	L	E	
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Subs reminder

Thanks to everyone who paid their subs. We use the income to pay for the printing and distribution of the newsletter—so if you haven't already paid (see address label) please do so ASAP!

Why not set up a Standing Order mandate to save you having to remember?

Sue Jolliffe



Hull Friends of the Earth Membership

To renew membership or to join/support Hull Friends of the Earth, please fill in the following form:		Payment	
Name (Mr/Mrs/Ms)		I enclose:	
Address		Membership fee (£5 waged, £2 unwaged)	£
		Donation	£
Postcode		Total	£
Telephone		<i>Please make cheques payable to Hull Friends of the Earth</i>	
Email			

Standing Order Mandate		Happy to help?
<p>Hull Friends of the Earth Standing Order Mandate OR (delete one or the other as appropriate) Amendment cancelling any previous instructions to pay money to Hull Friends of the Earth. (Please fill in the details of your own account and the bank where it is held.)</p>		<p>Volunteers are always needed. If you might be able to help, please underline what you would be able to help with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Street collections ▶ Stalls ▶ Demos ▶ Letter writing ▶ Delivering newsletters ▶ Other ways (please specify)
Your account name		
Your account number		
Your bank		
Bank branch		
Bank address		
Bank postcode		
<p>Upon receipt of this order and then every year following on or about the _____ day of _____ (month) until otherwise instructed, please pay to Hull Friends of the Earth Yorkshire Bank plc, 38 Prince's Avenue, Hull HU5 3QQ Account number: 27534801 Branch sort code: 05 05 25 the sum of TWO POUNDS (unwaged) or FIVE POUNDS (waged) or _____ (delete and/or fill in as required - donations over the minimum amount are welcome) mentioning the reference _____ (your own name or something short we can identify you by on the bank statements!)</p> <p>Signed _____ Date _____</p> <p><i>Please return to the Membership Secretary, Sue Jolliffe, 47 Kingsway, Cottingham, HU16 5BB</i></p>		

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