Hull's environmental newsletter. Published by Hull Friends of the Earth

www.hfoe.org.uk

October 2010 Issue 31

Diary Dates

See also page 7 for Transition Diary Dates

Sat 23 October 10am-4pm

Renewable Energy Showcase, Ramada Jarvis Hotel Willerby (see page 6)

Tues 2 November 7.30

HFoE meeting Recycling Unlimited Café 151 Newland Ave.

Wed 17 November 9.30am-4pm

Humber Estuary Conference, Hull Truck Theatre (see page 2)

Sat 20 November 11am-3pm (set up from 10am)

Green Fair, Spring Bank Community Centre

Sun 28 November 1pm-2pm

Tree Planting, Barmston Drain/ Stepney Lane

Tues 7 December 7.30

HFoE meeting Recycling Unlimited Café 151 Newland Ave.

Thurs 30 December

Party (info from Hilary 01482 445747)

Tues 4 January 7.30

HFoE meeting Recycling Unlimited Café 151 Newland Ave.

Tues 1 February 7.30

HFoE meeting Recycling Unlimited Café 151 Newland Ave

Hull Transition

Meet 2nd & 4th Monday of each month at The Eagle, Coltman Street, 7.30. Contact 07816 141169, email: lausannet@yahoo. co.uk

Beverley FoE

Meet 3rd Thursday each month at White Horse (Nellies) Beverley, 7.30.

Email: shan@voice-international.net

ls a like to ECO! activit

Is anyone out there? we

like to think some of you actually read ECO! Send us your news of 'eco' type activities, letters, articles or photos. Deadlines are generally beginning of January, April, July and October.



A Hull FoE "cow" (Lee-ann!) shelters visitors to Beverley Food Festival as they sign postcards to their MP asking him to support the Sustainable Livestock Bill

Dong dumps energy plans

Hull FoE got early wind of the decision by Dong energy to withdraw their proposed biomass energy plant planned for Queen Elizabeth Dock in Hull.

Receiving a tip off on 11 October, coordinator Sue Jolliffe wasted no time in checking with Dong Consultation Manager lan Crummock. "You are quick off the mark!" was his response. "The news was just released this morning."

"Yes," he continued, "it is the case that Dong Energy has decided not to pursue the development of large-scale biomass generation in the UK. This is a strategic decision reflecting a strengthened focus on core activities such as gas-fired power plants and off-shore wind. The further development of the Humber Renewables project is thus suspended."

We wonder whether the new planning system is proving more cumbersome than expected...

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ECO CHIT CHAT

Pickering Road Community Orchard

has a bountiful harvest this year. You might be in time for one of their open days. Contact Yvette on jolleyholley@hotmail.com 01482 503577.

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust has activities for children to celebrate National Big Draw at Fordyke Green on Wawne Road on Tuesday 26 October 10am-3pm. Includes creating a mural mapping the future of green spaces in Hull. Contact Fiona.weir@ywt.org.uk 07827 894785.

Hull's old Fruit Market on Humber Street now has...a market! To be every 2nd Sunday in the month from 11am-4pm, it has among other things vintage clothing, arts and crafts, handmade cards, veggie food, vintage cycles, and natural wool products. With the so called 'meanwhile' conversion of many of the former warehouses to galleries, studios and bars the area is acquiring an interesting bohemian character.

The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (they don't have to be that ancient!) is organising a course on Maintaining your Traditional House on Saturday 6 November at Boulevard Village Hall. If you have a pre-1930 ish house its probably right for you. Includes overhauling sash windows, lime plaster etc. Good value at £10. Details from Elainer@heycf. co.uk, 01482 481885 or Hilary (back page).



and bookings for stalls are coming in thick and fast; 21 bookings at the time of writing. If you've been meaning to book, get your form and cheque in or contact Hilary (details back page) as soon as possible. Stalls £13 with table, £9 without, £5 outside.

Most of all, make sure you give it plenty of publicity and bring friends and family. We can supply more posters.

As well as stalls, there'll be the usual live music (take part if you like!), good veggie food and activities for children.

Saturday 20 November 11am-3pm

Spring Bank Community Centre, West Parade Spring Bank next to Tap pub). Grown ups 20p; Big kids 10p, Little kids free.

Contact Hilary too if you can help in the kitchen or on the Hull FoE stall.

Don't you just hate 'greenwash'? A double glazing firm is trying to tell me it would be 'green' to rip out my 100 year old, infinitely repairable, timber windows and put in their plastic ones which would have about a 30-year life, at a guess. OK, mine aren't double glazed, but local joiners can draught proof them for a lot less cost, and a heavy curtain keeps in a lot of heat.

Humber Estuary Conference 2010

Wednesday 17 November 2010 9.30am for a 10am start, close at 4pm. At the Studio Theatre of Hull Truck Theatre.

The purpose of the annual Humber Estuary Conference is to brief all those involved and interested in the sustainable management of the Humber Estuary and its environs on the state of the estuary and on developments affecting it. This year we examine recent management initiatives and the progress of establishing the new intertidal habitats. The conference is an opportunity for networking and exchanging views between a wide range of organisations.

Book by 8 November. Info: Tania Davey: 01652 631520

Good Energy claims to be UK's greenest energy supplier. It's likely they are, as 100% of their electricity comes from renewable sources. As well as making their own electricity from a wind farm in Cornwall, they buy power from more than 500 independent wind, hydro, wave, solar power and sustainable biomass generators around the country. They also provide an incentive for people using solar power for heating.

More information from Lee-Ann on leann@the3dfacility. co.uk (01482 440043) or www.goodenergy.co.uk. (0845 456 1640)

PARTY! Thursday 30 December

details from Hilary (back page).

Hilary Byers



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A domestic solar PV system

Stephen McNeill sends us his personal experience of generating his own solar photovoltaic power

In May this year I had a solar PV system installed by a company called Eco Heat & Power. There are 24 PV panels rated at 3.2kW peak power output covering an area of 4.5 x 5.6m on the south facing roof of my bungalow. The direct current output from the PV panels is converted into alternating current at mains voltage and frequency by an inverter; this is then connected to the mains through the main fuse box. The inverter has a display showing instantaneous power output and there is also an extra meter to record the total amount of electricity generated.

The system cost £14,700 towards which I received a grant of £2,500. Unfortunately grants are no longer available but the Feed-in Tariff scheme which has just started will provide the main return. This pays 41.3p for every kWh of electricity generated and the system is expected to generate 2700kKh per year. An extra 3p is paid for each kWh exported, ie not used by me. This is deemed to be half the total for small domestic users. The amount of electricity I have to buy from my supplier will also be reduced by about a third. Together these will result in



Photo: Stephen McNeili

an annual return of around £1,200 giving a payback period of about 10 years, taking the initial grant in to account.

It's a great feeling knowing that when I switch things on they are being powered by the sun and every year the electricity I generate is equivalent to a saving of 1.2 tonnes of CO2.

Stephen McNeill

Cash for homes and communities which generate electricity

Climate Change Minister Greg July Barker on launched 12 Government plans help communities become more selfsufficient in the way they use heat and power.

The Green Energy (Definition and Promotion) Act 2009 commits Government to consult on a new The Microgeneration Strategy. Government will publish the final Strategy in early 2011. Homes, schools and businesses are already guaranteed cash payments through the feed-in tariff, which came into effect on 1 April 2010, for producing their own green electricity through technologies such as solar panels or small wind turbines, as well as for selling it to the national grid.

100,000 homes organisations have installed this kind of technology so far. The Government says it wants to see what more it can do to help develop the industry, create

more job opportunities, and make sure customers can trust the green technology they buy.

consultation the on Microgeneration Strategy will look at four key areas for development:

- Quality: ensure consumers have confidence that equipment and installation is reliable and adheres to the highest standards;
- Technology: examine improve products through more trialling of technologies new to the UK;
- Skills: develop the microgeneration supply chain to ensure it is properly equipped with the right people to meet the expected rise in demand, as well as creating and sustaining jobs in the UK;
- Advice: provide more accessible and information about microgeneration to homeowners, communities and small businesses.

The focus of the Microgeneration Strategy will be electricity generation technologies less than 50 kW in size, and heat generating technologies less than 300 kW in size. This includes:

- Air, ground and water source heat pumps;
- solar photovoltaics (PV);
- solar thermal water heating;
- biomass boilers;
- nicro combined heat and power (micro CHP);
- micro wind turbines;
- fuel cells;
- micro hydro schemes;
- passive flue gas recovery devices.

More information on www.decc.gov.uk. To submit views to the consultation see migrogenconsult@decc.gsi.gov.uk Consultation is supposed to end on 22 December 2010 (though when Haris enquired she found that the groups to contribute to the Select Committee had already been chosen and met.).

Food campaign

Not much comes close to being as important or integral to our quality of life as food. Yet we try to make it as easy and cheap to deal with as possible. It's time to change, and stop our meat and dairy eating the planet!

Fix the Food Chain

There is a link between the destruction of the rainforest and the UK meat industry. Factory farming demands massive amounts of soy—a key ingredient in animal feed. Most of this comes from huge soy plantations in Latin America.. Vast tracts of land need to be cleared to grow it on and this means cutting down trees and displacing rural communities. Not to mention greenhouse gas emissions, loss of biodiversity and food sovereignty. In the UK, farmers are going out of business because they cannot keep up with the low prices made possible by intensive farming practices.

So how do we Fix the Food Chain?

The sustainable livestock bill

Friends of the Earth have introduced a bill into parliament with Robert Flello MP.

This Bill calls for the improvement of the impacts and consumption of livestock in the UK. If it is supported by a majority of MPs it becomes law.

We are asking for the Secretary of State to prepare a strategy to improve the sustainability of livestock farming and the consumption of livestock produce. It must take into account global impacts and it specifies key areas to be addressed including how grants, subsidies and taxes could support sustainable farming practices instead of propping up intensive practices; public procurement, the Government's position in the EU and other international policy forums; greenhouse gas emissions, research and development, etc.

We are urging our MPs to be in Parliament on the 12 November to hear the second reading of the Bill and we want them to sign Early Day Motion 367—Sustainable Livestock Farming And Food Production.

ActionsJoin the MOOvement!



To help raise awareness and to keep up with \| \| \| \| \| the campaign why don't you join the MOOvement at www.jointheMOOvement.com

By joining the MOOvement we are telling our MPs that we care about how our food is produced, we care that our food is sustainable and we want our local farmers to be supported.

For more information on the environmental and social impacts of the intensive livestock sector, see FoE's What's Feeding Our Food? Report: www.foe.co.uk/resource/briefings/livestock_impacts.pdf and Eating The Planet? How we can feed the world without trashing it

www.foe.co.uk/resource/briefings/eating_planet_briefing.pdf



Cows on the loose!

A small herd 'cows' has been appearing at various events across Hull and the East Riding getting postcards signed to send to our MPs.

🏋 We campaigned at Beverley Food

Festival We talked to lots of people and local farmers and bought as much local produce as we could carry! Look out for more cow action in your local area. Could be coming to shops near you.

We campaigned at the Pram race The famous

Pram Race originates from the 20s and 30s when wives of Hull trawlermen at sea would collect their children from school and then dash down West Dock Avenue to the trawler owner's offices to draw their husband's wages before closing time.

Nocton Dairy

Nocton Dairies wants to build an industrial 8,100 cow dairy, changing British farming and our countryside forever.

If you believe cows belong in fields not factories, join WSPA now and say "Not in my Cuppa" today.

http://notinmycuppa.com/

Lee-Ann Williams

Friends of the Earth Conference 2010 Reading University

2010's theme was Power and Politics. Apt opening speakers, therefore were Ken Livingston and Phillip Blond—director of the think tank ResPublica, he proposes a new conservatism—a 'radical communitarian traditionalist conservatism'. Ken, we all know.

The Earthmovers award for 'Friend of the Earth' was won by Ali Abbas—Manchester FoE, a truly inspirational being, his fellow group members describe him as a 'campaigning legend'. He loves campaigning; he said, 'it is amazing to see what power people have over politics.'

The international visitors were tremendous—representing Malaysia, Paraguay, Australia and Europe.

Meena Raman (Honorary Secretary General of FoE Malaysia and FoE International Executive Committee) gave the John Preedy Memorial Lecture to close Conference 2010.

To check out highlights, Earthmovers and listen to speeches from Conference go to: www.foe.co.uk/events/conference.html *More details will be in the next issue of ECO.*

Lee-Ann Williams

Conference considers future of biorenewables in Humber region

Diana Sandy and I attended a conference entitled Power, Process and Policies, Building a Regional Renewables Future, on 16 September at Bishop Burton College, organised by Humber Chemicals Focus and the National Non Food Crops Council (NNFCC). It was mainly attended by businesses, growers and researchers from the Humber region, and we were the only delegates from the voluntary sector there, but were able to play a full part in the workshops and question time.

The Renewable Energy Directive (15% of energy from renewable sources by 2020); the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation and the Renewable Heat Incentive (which comes into operation in 2011) are all driving the development of the biorenewables industries.

A great deal of research into new high value products from plants is being

done at York University. They are also looking at CO2 accounting.

Development of products from waste materials ('2nd generation products') by local firms is much further advanced than I had realized. Yet BP is spending millions on developing the production of ethanol from Brazilian sugar cane, ('1st generation') when by its own estimates a maximum of 19% of petrol can be substituted by ethanol.

The large scale burning of wood to generate electricity seems a very primitive way of treating this resource; distilling it to generate gas is arguably a more efficient way of supplying domestic users.

My conclusion was that this is not an area that lends itself to environmental groups having a straightforward 'say no to' type of policy, and there really is a need to look in depth at each product,

at the processes involved, the sources of feedstock and the value to people of the product.

Diana said 'The thing about the conference for me was that it upended my understanding of the notion that we were all going to have to do without oil-based goods and have to go back to more natural products rather than manufactured ones. It seems that everything can be made from bio-mass very StarTrek! Clearly the real crunch then is going to be cost. We can be encouraged to go on using the same energy as we do now but as the developing world catches up there will be an issue about who is entitled to the more limited resourcesus because we got there first and know how to make them, or the developing countries because they want to develop!'

Hilary Byers

PARAGUAY

At conference this year we were joined by Pablo Venezuela from our sister group Paraguay Friends of the Earth. They are called Sobrevivencia, which literally translated means survival. His presentation expressed simply the devastation his country has lived with as the price of soy farming and expansion: the deaths and injuries caused by pesticide spraying, the tragedy of deforestation and the migration of the rural populations to live in urban poverty.

This is all driven by Europe's demand for cheap meat and dairy.

Paraguay is a landlocked country in central South America. Previously a fertile, wooded region, soy now exceeds half the total agricultural area. It is the sixth largest soy producer in the world.

SOY INVASION: THE TRUE COST

Deforestation (see previous paragraph).

Migration. About 70,000 farmers each year migrate to urban areas where there is no work. The indigenous people, ancient inhabitants of the Atlantic Forest, have been expelled en masse by soy monocultures.

Pesticides. For those that stay, there is the devastating effect of pesticide spraying. It is suggested that around

90% of the crop is GM, which relies on a cocktail of agrochemicals.

Loss of biodiversity. Soy cultivation creates vast and featureless soy deserts. **Water usage** has gone up enormously just to grow soy.

Criminalization of the peasant struggle and loss of food sovereignty (see links at the end of this article).

THE GOOD NEWS

Friends of the Earth EWNI has been working with Sobrevivencia (FoE Paraguay) on a project aimed at addressing the impacts of soy on rural communities. First priority is to teach people their rights and how to use the law; the second is to help them find viable ways of making a living that protects the environment—diversifying crops, preserving traditional seed varieties and using organic farming techniques. Promotion of sustainable alternatives is important, especially for youngsters, it gives them a chance to remain in their communities rather than having to leave for the cities.

The project is also working to promote new laws to protect the environment and people. As a result of the project, 8 breaches of environmental legislation have so far been reported. This is previously unheard of, and a hugely positive step.

Food campaign

Our Food Campaign highlights the link between the growth of soy farming and the UK's industrial meat and dairy production.

If we change this unhealthy, unsustainable, cruel system then we also lift the burden from the peoples of South America.

I was incredibly moved by the poignancy of meeting in person someone who is directly involved with the campaign I am working on.

We had a direct contact with the problems that exist in his country (and others). A huge gasp greeted his presentation when the extent of deforestation was shown.

Lee-Ann Williams

FURTHER ACTION AND INFO

Help Paraguay fight the soy invasionhttp://www.foe.co.uk/campaigns/fair_ future/press_for_change/save_paraguay_ soy_take_over_24802.html

Visit the Paraguay FoE site

http://www.foei.org/en/who-we-are/member-directory/groups-by-region/paraguay.html

For info on Food Sovereignty

http://viacampesina.org/en/

Wildlife Notes

Be careful what you wish for.

The rain came at last, especially on the day of the barbecue. At least I wasn't rushing to provide cups of tea, but the supply of baked potatoes took some eating that week. The weather was much better for the planting in Sculcoates Cemetery; a group of twelve volunteers made quick work of the wallflowers, hollyhocks, lupins and hardy geraniums in the decorative border, along with a medley of wildflowers around the central path. Second place in the Hull in Bloom competition for the Wyke area in the community and wildlife categories encourages the workers. Information boards, seats and water could be the answer.

The cycle trailer is earning its keep, moving tools and plants for the various events. A bill-board would complement the kit, giving details of the activities. It will still be a struggle to move some of the larger trees and I have been thinking about using a handcart. A HANDCART!

The dry summer has meant more work in some ways but has reduced the need for grass cutting. This is a regular task for keeping the pathways clear and

attractive, especially in the cemetery. The annual cut is now due when parts of the open spaces are trimmed to prevent invasion by brambles. The traditional way to do this is to introduce grazing animals, but I wonder, "visitors charged by savage bull", "residents trampled by stampeding horses" or "traffic held up by wandering sheep". I can see the headlines.

Meanwhile the Local Development Framework is looking to fit in 17,500 more dwellings in Hull. The question is where?

David Longthorn



Transition Hull update

Meetings are now twice a month, on the 2nd Monday of the month and again on the 4th Monday: 7.30 pm at the Eagle on Anlaby Road.

Join us in being part of a rapidly growing international organisation that aims to inspire, encourage, network and support local communities, community groups and individuals in exploring the transition from oil dependency to local economies. We have a new web site under development: www.transitionhull.co.uk/. Thanks to Lorna for bringing her expertise to the group.

We run or take part in a range of events and hopefully there's something to suit everyone. Scrappy Do workshops for families have been popular, and the Barn Dance was good fun.

The next film date is Sat 13 November: Food Inc to be shown at 2pm at the Boulevard Village Hall, followed by refreshments and discussion. This documentary film examines corporate

farming in the United States, and its effect on health, livestock and the environment. Meanwhile, if you would like to watch *The World according to Monsanto* try: http://topdocumentaryfilms.com/theworld-according-to-monsanto/

Permaculture as an alternative to intensive agriculture interests many of us, and we will be organising a trip to the Leeds Permaculture Network site. If you wish to be included in the planning of this trip please contact Lausanne on the number at the end of this article (page 7).

Good news locally is that Playscape in the Community has been successful in obtaining use of part of the Constable Street Field. They are planning a natural play area, and a strip of land where Transition volunteers can work together to grow things, improving the area and helping young people recognise that food doesn't just come from supermarkets.

Continued on page 7

HULL & EAST RIDING RENEWABLE ENERGY SHOWCASE

Saturday 23 October 10am-4pm

Ramada Jarvis, Grange Park Lane, Willerby

Like the idea of generating your own energy?

Your local Energy Saving Trust is working with East Riding of Yorkshire Council to bring a free renewable energy showcase event to the residents of Hull and East Riding.

The team will be at the Ramada Jarvis, Willerby, on Saturday 23rd October, 10am – 4pm, to provide residents with free, impartial and expert advice on how to generate your own energy to help save money on your bills.

Visitors can view the latest renewable energy technologies and chat to local installers about the best options for their home. Details of grants to help towards the cost of installing energy saving measures will be available and you can also learn how to generate an income from producing your own electricity with the new clean energy cash back scheme.

Whether it's finding out if you qualify for free loft or cavity wall insulation or talking to an expert about how to save fuel with simple smarter driving tips, the team will be on hand to help.

Call free on 0800 512 012 or email advice@est-nyh. org.uk

Permaculture can bee fun! Marinet

The Permaculture Day (organised by Transition Hull and the Co-op) at Hull Quaker Meeting House on 22 September was a wide-ranging event, covering beekeeping, and how to set up a food co-op, as well as the principles of permaculture itself

Permaculture was developed in the 1970s by Bill Mollison and David Hohngnen in reaction to declining oil reserves. It is about working with nature to achieve maximum effect for minimum effort, for instance by companion planting and encouraging natural predators. Design is an important part of the process, and the principles extend beyond growing food to ideas of a producer economy rather than a consumer economy. Among its principles are 'Each function should be supported by many elements and every element should serve many functions'.

The Permaculture Association has its national office in Leeds employing 10 staff, supporting research and putting



Chris Coulson (*right*) demonstrates his home-made bee hive on Permaculture Day

on courses as well as encouraging activities on the ground.

See www.permaculture.org.uk
Tel: 0113 230 7461, and
'Permaculture: A Practical Guide for a
Sustainable Future', Island Press 1990

'Making Local Food Work' is a lotteryfunded project helping people to set up and run community-owned shops. In Hull the Goodwin Trust is currently awaiting funding to set up a co-op in the Great Thornton Street area.

See: www.makinglocalfoodwork.co.uk and www.foodcoops.org

Advice can also be obtained from the Yorkshire and Humber Food Co-ops Advisor: lizzie@sustainweb.org

Marinet news

UK needs marine reserves: please lobby your MEP

In Britain we eat more fish than our seas can produce

UK fish supplies only last for seven months of the year. After that, the UK becomes dependent on fish from elsewhere, according to the report Fish Dependence from leading independent think-tank nef (the new economics foundation) and OCEAN2012.

The nef/OCEAN2012 Report states that with 72% of fish stocks in European waters overfished, it is clear that we need to fish and consume in a different way; so that we can guarantee jobs, food and income, and support millions of livelihoods now and into the future.

"A healthy marine environment is a pre-condition to building a stronger economy, a more robust industry and happier fishing communities. There are fish without fisheries but no fisheries without fish." says Aniol Esteban from nef/OCEAN2012.

The next few months will define the direction of EU fisheries reform. The nef/OCEAN2012 Report calls on the UK government to show leadership and act to secure a new EU fisheries policy that delivers sustainable and fair outcomes for all.

(Information from Marinet website www. marinet.org.uk)

Meanwhile we all need to write to our MEPs to get their support for amendments to the Common Fisheries Policy to incorporate:

- a network of linked marine reserves;
- fishing quotas based on science, not countries' self-interest;
- moratoria on catching endangered species, especially Blue Fin Tuna; and
- prohibition on EU countries plundering less developed countries' fisheries.

Transition Hull update Continued from page 6

Forthcoming events

► Tues 26 October

Community Planting Constable Street Field 1-3 pm

▶ Wed 27 October

Scrappy Do Half Term workshop Boulevard Village Hall 10.30 am-1 pm

► Sun 31 October

Transition Open Meeting in Cottingham Methodist Hall 2.30 – 4.30 pm

► Sat 13 November

Film: Food Inc Boulevard Village Hall 2pm

► Mon 13 December

Hull Transition Christmas Party, The Eagle, Anlaby Road 7.30 pm

► Fri 7 January

Barn Dance Boulevard Village Hall 7.30 pm

► Sat 26/Sun 27 Feb

Permaculture course in Hull Boulevard Village Hall [details to come]

For more details about any of the above, or to make suggestions for future films or speakers, please phone Lausanne on 07816 141169, or come along to one of our regular meetings.

Jenny Parsons

Transition Hull

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Signed Date			date on our campaigns and how you can help us. If you'd rather		
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