



DIARY DATES

Tues 4 Nov, 7.30pm

HFoE meeting Recycling Unlimited 151 Newland Avenue

★ Sat 8 Nov, 10.30-3pm

Green Fair at Freedom Centre, Preston Road, HU9 3QB

Mon 10 Nov, 7.45pm

Talk: 'Exposing False Green Solutions-Bioenergy' at Boulevard Village Hall

Tues 2 Dec, 7.30pm

HFoE meeting Recycling Unlimited 151 Newland Avenue

2015

Tues 6 Jan, 7.30pm

HFoE meeting Recycling Unlimited 151 Newland Avenue

Tues 3 Feb, 7.30pm

HFoE meeting, Recycling Unlimited 151 Newland Avenue

Wed 18 March

Greenshare Conference re City of Culture (info to come)

Other events inside

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Ings Primary runs on sun



PHOTO: Ings Primary

Hull FoE members Lee-ann and Hilary were delighted to be invited to officially switch on Ings Primary School's impressive array of 184 solar panels at their assembly on Thursday 2nd October. Lee-ann did a brief presentation and the children showed by their answers to questions that many of them understood the connection between how electricity is generated and CO² and climate change.

Afterwards, School Administrator Lynn Brattan explained that the school was originally contacted by private firm Power Your Future, based in Kent, who offered to find investors for the project. Westinghouse Solar of Hertfordshire own and maintain the panels. They were installed by Solinium Ltd of Buckinghamshire.

This private investment meant that the school did not have to find the capital to buy the panels, but the owners get the income from the feedback tariff from energy supplied to the grid. However, the school first saves on its electricity bills, and pupils can monitor the energy being generated by the panels via an online website.

Finding the capital to buy panels is a problem for small schools, especially academies which are not allowed to borrow. Friends of the Earth nationally are looking into ways of getting round this problem. (Ings Primary is an academy owned by a Cooperative Trust, one of several schools in this ownership in Hull.)

continued on page 8

eco CHIT CHAT

Pick your own on Alfred Gelder Street!

Sometimes you can't even give food away! Not enough people are picking the veg at the plot outside the **Wilson Centre** on Alfred Gelder Street that we planted up in June, and some of it is going to seed. The promised notices have not materialised, and with a fence round the site it is not surprising that people don't realise they can help themselves. We turned up on the 4 September to hand out veg and encourage people to take them, but there is plenty left.

A City Farm for Beverley Road

Following wide consultation with the local community on 'Making Money Go Further', Hull City Council has identified land at the rear of Kingston Youth Centre 48a Beverley Road for use as a City Farm. A grant of £30,000 has been allocated to support start up costs and preparation of the site. It is envisaged the city farm will act as a hub for food related and community based growing projects around the city.

Organic veg offer

Newington residents can get an organic veg box for only £2.50 from Arthur's Organics. Call 07983 383524 or info@arthursorganics.com, or visit their stall at Lonsdale Community Centre's Craft Fair on Wednesdays 9am-2pm

Go foraging

Andy Steele says a free foraging event held in September was a success and Nettle Soup was enjoyed. If anyone wants to lead or take part in other foraging events, contact him on <https://www.facebook.com/groups/560897633964851/?fref=ts>

Drax biofuel is NOT green

Biofuelwatch criticises the Green Investment Bank's contribution of £100m to Drax power station's 50% conversion from coal to biomass, saying that Drax has been shown to be burning pellets made from whole trees, from clearfelling of native wetland forests in the southern US. There will be an opportunity to discuss this further at the talk by Sarah Bastable of Biofuelwatch on Monday 10 November (see page 6). Biofuelwatch is protesting at the GIB on 28 October. <http://www.biofuelwatch.org.uk/alerts/banking-on-big-biomass/> for more information.

TTiP is threat to sustainability

Tuesday 19 August was "Earth Overshoot Day"—when we had used up all the natural resources that the Earth can sustain for an entire year. The date gets earlier every year as global demand for resources increases. Across Europe we rely on other countries' resources to keep our economies going. The EU has tabled a Circular Economy Package of policies to help reduce to sustainable limits the carbon, land, water and raw materials footprints of our imports from around the world. These include a target of 70% for domestic recycling. Will these policies be sacrificed if TTiP goes ahead? (see page 7).

FoE Sierra Leone

We have had links in the past with FoESL in Freetown, but have no news of how they are managing in the current Ebola crisis. The Freetown Society in Hull is raising funds for basic equipment such as buckets and soap. Donations can be made via Hull Council offices.

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

The Wonderful World of Fungi

Two workshops led by mushroom expert Caroline Wilcock

Saturday 8 November, at the Green Fair

Either from 11.30-12.30, or from 2-3

- ▶ How fungi play a significant role in life cycles and the environment;
- ▶ Find out how you can grow mushrooms at home;
- ▶ Take part in hands-on activities cultivating mushrooms;
 - ▶ Learn about pests & diseases.
- ▶ Cost: £7 per person. Limited places, so book now...

**To book: call Andy on (01482) 710177
or email andy.steele@freedomcentre.info**

Green Prosperity, Unit A, The Freedom Centre,
Preston Road, Hull HU9 3QB

Grow your own oyster mushrooms! Take home innoculated straw - and give it a go!

Green Fair goes east !

on Saturday, 8 November, from 10.30 am to 3 pm
in the Freedom Centre, Preston Road, Hull HU9 3QB

Here's how to get to the Green Fair:

By bus: No 41 or 43, get off at Police Station on Preston Road

By car: from Holderness Road turn down Southcoates Lane (opposite the trees in front of Holderness House); at the lights at the bottom go straight on and you are on the dual carriageway of Preston Road; turn left in front of the Police Station down Aldborough Grove; if you are unloading for a stall turn into the first car park on the right; if not go on to Ryhill Grove where there

are plenty of parking spaces. (NB Satnav might take you to a different entrance!)

Cyclists and pedestrians can go in the main entrance from Preston Road just east of the police station and family centre. There are plenty of cycle stands.

Look forward to seeing you!

At the time of writing there are still a few stalls available but be quick! Contact Hilary on

01482 445747 or Hilary@amskaya.karoo.co.uk

LOCAL GREEN GROUPS NEWS & EVENTS

► **Keen growers wanted.** Green Prosperity has launched a project to develop fruit and veg plots in residential gardens with families who are eager to grow their own but have little or no experience. They are looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help, whether experienced or not, and in return for their time they will be paying for any volunteer who wants to complete a City & Guilds Horticulture qualification at Hull College, plus other relevant training such as First Aid at Work etc. More information from Andy Steele, Green Prosperity Community Co-ordinator, Tel: 01482 710177; [facebook.com/GreenPHull](https://www.facebook.com/GreenPHull)

► **Congratulations to Rainbow Garden in North Hull,** one of our best known and most successful community gardens. Jeannie tells us they have won numerous awards this year, including Green Flag for the 3rd year running, Sheriff of East Yorkshire Award, Yorkshire in Bloom Outstanding Award and Hull in Bloom Best Community Group. Jeannie was even selected to carry the Queen's

Baton through the City Centre for the Commonwealth Games! Children's activities coming up, including 'Bugs, Slugs and Yukkies Things' for Halloween. Jeanie@jeanie.karoo.co.uk or 07504292378

► **Thoresby Community Edible Forest Garden** has creative outdoor activities planned, open to everyone, on the following Sundays 12 to 3pm: 26 October; 16 November; 18 January; 8 February. More from at_theedge@yahoo.co.uk

► **TimeBank kitchen workshops** take place on Tuesday afternoons at Lonsdale Community Centre, 3-6 pm and coming soon to other areas of the city. Want to share recipes, improve your cooking skills or cook your tea in a community setting? Cost: 2 time share credits per session + cost of ingredients. Contact: info@timebankhullandeastriding.co.uk or Kate on 07545696007

► **Yorkshire Wildlife Trust dive into conservation**

Have you ever wondered what it's like to breathe underwater? If you are interested in getting involved

with marine conservation through diving, now is your chance!

Sunday 16 November, 10.30-4pm, Flamborough Living Seas Centre (to include an afternoon session in Thornwick Bay Caravan Park Swimming Pool).

Cost: £45 non-members, £35 for YWT members. Booking essential: Call the Living Seas Centre 01262 422103 or livingseas@ywt.org.uk

► **The Avenues Bicycle Project** is planning to purchase a shipping container for its next shipment of 400 refurbished bikes to Ghana. When the container reaches Ghana, it will be converted into a bike workshop for a local bike fitter and retailer. You can donate £10 now through Paypal on their website www.avenuesbicycleproject.org

► **Greenshare** is one way in which local green groups keep in touch with each other. Reserve Wednesday 18 March 2015 for a conference where we will learn how City of Culture can involve green groups. Sharon.clay@hullcc.gov.uk or 01482 613281

Handfasting among the apples

PHOTO: MillieBudworth



Hilary and Philip at the handfasting in Pickering Road Community Orchard. The Raving Maes morris dancers form an arch.

Pickering Road Community Orchard was the location for a Handfasting (a Pagan wedding ceremony) on Saturday 20 September, when Hull FoE members Hilary Byers and Philip Heselton wed after over a third of a century together.

The ceremony included a symbolic 'tying the knot' around their hands in coloured cord and the Raving Maes morris dancers performed a dance which tied the couple in ribbons. The ceremony finished with a procession around the wildlife garden. There was a special moment of magic when leaves fell from the trees like confetti on the happy couple.

Hilary said 'We are really grateful to the Orchard members, especially Sue, Dave and Yvette who did so much to make the occasion special for us and our friends and family.' Committee member Sue

Goddard said 'We are a community facility and we enjoy having events that involve the wider community.' The orchard now has a level performance square for dancing etc.

ZooCafé provided the vegetarian buffet and the wedding cake and Janey and Gemma enjoyed the challenge of catering with only a shipping container as a kitchen! The traditional marquee was provided by the Traditional Marquee Company.

Pagan ceremonies do not have legal recognition in this country (though they can do in Scotland) so the couple had their legal marriage in the morning in the James Reckitt Room (the former Local History room) at Hull Central Library.

Wassail to toast the apple trees

The harvest of apples at the orchard has not been huge this year; Sue thinks the trees might have had a bit of a rest after a bumper crop last year. Look out for the date of the Wassail in early January, when we 'toast' the apple trees and wish them and us good health for the coming year. The orchard needs more volunteers and there will be an opportunity to learn about pruning and put your skills to good use.

Contact Sue for more details:

sue@wheelbarrow5.karoo.co.uk

01482 329369



'Living Better for Less' with SEARCH

It never ceases to amaze me how many groups are transforming patches of vacant and derelict land in the city to create gardens, grow food and attract wildlife.

Andy Paxton told us at his talk on Mon 13 October at Boulevard Village Hall that no less than 17 local groups have been helped to get started by the SEARCH project (Social and Economic Resources by Churches in Hull). What's the best way of getting people involved? Put on a barbeque; the children come to

see what's going on and bring their parents! Andy and others also show people how to make 'takeaway meals' at a fraction of the cost, and how they can grow some of the ingredients. We hope to visit some of these projects in future ECOs.

Hilary Byers

Fracking update

West Newton Well goes wrong—mini-frack abandoned

The controversial mini-frack that Rathlin Energy wanted to carry out at their West Newton exploratory gas well was never completed—we were surprised to learn recently.

Rathlin Energy said, “a decision had been taken **not** to exercise the company’s right to carry out...” 2 of the 3 planned tests. Given the millions of pounds and huge effort invested in drilling down to the Bowland Shale, and all the hoo-hah surrounding the Environment Agency (EA) permit to mini-frack, to suddenly abandon the two deepest tests seems somewhat surprising, to say the least.

Could it possibly be related to the fact that shortly after Rathlin announced the mini-frack was almost complete (4 Aug) things went badly wrong (12 Aug), and expensive well intervention equipment had to be mobilised to site?

We’ll probably never know, as East Riding Council (ERYC) haven’t visited the site since before planning permission was granted, the EA didn’t even know about the incident when we informed them, and the HSE were merely, “relying on Rathlin’s duty to keep us informed”.

The most plausible explanation has to be that things went so badly wrong they had to abandon two of the tests. The lower section of the well has been sealed off and abandoned.

More detail on this, and all the incidents we’re aware of, is at www.frackfreeeastyorkshire.com/incidents

All visits (or the lack of them) by regulators are listed on the well pages of the website.

Crawberry Hill is next

So now Rathlin will move the equipment to the Crawberry Hill site near Walkington and try again, this time on a well that goes through our drinking water aquifer. They can do this because although they ran out of planning permission time, ERYC happily granted them an extension. Despite objections from over 300 members of the public, and 4 neighbouring parish councils, Councillors voted 11 to 1 to approve the extension. Still, they did reduce the amount of time: Rathlin asked for 2 years, but were only granted 18 months.

Most worryingly of all though for anyone interested in transparent democracy is ERYC’s treatment of the public at controversial planning meetings. Knowing the high level of public interest they excluded most of the public, leaving furious villagers on the pavement outside. The 40 people who did get in were confined to the gallery where it’s impossible to see many of the speakers.

A local from Newbald said, “Several of us from the village are here and have not been allowed in—we’re shocked and absolutely appalled. This directly affects us and we have a right to see what goes on. They must have known this would happen, and there needs to be provision for this situation.”

Jon Mager spoke against the application and said afterwards, “We appreciate Rathlin’s offer of three bird boxes from their £30 million budget for the East Riding but this does not offset the wider risks to all wildlife and the population of Hull and the East Riding.”

Protectors found not guilty

In July two protectors attempted to exercise their right to peaceful protest by, ‘slow walking’ vehicles out of the West Newton well

site. However they were arrested straight away, along with a third protector.

All three were found **Not Guilty of Obstructing the Highway** at their trial on 26 September. This is not very surprising given that the police’s own footage clearly showed that two of them were only on the highway for 1 min 25 secs. A third protector was working in the camp kitchen when the incident began, came out to see what the all the commotion was about, and was arrested without warning pretty much immediately. You can even hear him exclaim, “What’s going on?” as he is handcuffed.

Police not aware of their responsibilities

The trial raised serious concerns about the policing of protests in Humberside that could have implications for other campaigns.

The defence explained that under the European Convention of Human Rights we have the right to Freedom of Expression (Article 10) and the Right to Protest (Article 11).

Sergeant Stephenson agreed that part of the police’s role was to facilitate this peaceful protest. However, under cross examination he was forced to admit that **he was not aware that this right existed** even if it caused some inconvenience to others. He said, “We’d been asked to show zero tolerance to ‘slow walks’.

When two other police officers were asked why they were there that day they simply replied, “To make sure the workers got home”. They were apparently unaware that it was their job to facilitate peaceful protest. When asked whether he’d received training for it, one replied, “I go to lots of briefings—I can’t remember them all”.

Richard Howarth

Transition news

The last in the autumn series of talks arranged by Transition Hull and Hull Friends of the Earth will be:

EXPOSING FALSE GREEN SOLUTIONS – why bioenergy is not a sustainable answer to our energy needs



Come and find out why the use of biomass and biofuels as a means to generate energy on an industrial scale is fuelling an environmental crisis, rather than providing a solution to it. The talk will take a look at the 'chain of destruction'—starting at the source and following these fuels to their final destination for burning in the UK. We will also discuss the local relevance of these issues in Hull, which is the site of a biomass power station and a biofuel refinery, as well as being a major handler of biomass imports and supplier to biomass power stations.

The talk will be given by a bioenergy campaigner from the organisation **Biofuelwatch** on Monday 10 November, 7.45 pm, Boulevard Village Hall, Boulevard, Hull HU3 3EJ

TRANSITION Hull ran stalls at the Full Flava Festival in Pearson Park in June and at the Cornucopia Festival at Burton Constable in September, talking to people about sustainability, and promoting various local initiatives such as the Hull Permaculture Network and Food4Hull. We joined with Friends of Constable Street Field to run a family Fun Day in August on the field, very well attended and successful despite the uncertain weather.

WE'VE been supporting the anti-fracking campaign locally and disseminating information about it via our mailing list. The Transition/FoE talk in September where John Cossham spoke about 'My Low Carbon Life' attracted about 20 people and was well received, especially the free seeds. If you would like to join the Transition Hull Mailing List please contact jenny@transitionhull.co.uk

THE Hull Permaculture Network is meeting regularly, both socially and on arranged site visits. If you would like to join, or would like more information, contact Lausanne: lausannet@yahoo.co.uk or mobile 07816 141169

Jenny Parsons

COB-BUILDING COURSE 1 & 2 November 2014

A Cob-building course at the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust garden at Pearson Park has been arranged for Sat 1st and Sun 2nd November. It will be run by an expert in Cob-building* and will cost £30 for the two days. The course will only take place if we get enough participants. It promises to be an interesting 2 days and sounds like fun for all!

Please contact Lausanne lausannet@yahoo.co.uk or mobile 07816 141169 if you are interested in taking part.

*Cob-building is building in mud, usually mixed with straw. The course will build a cob oven, for use in the Wildlife Garden

Answers to Environmental Crossword No 6 Birdspotting

by Chlodowig

Most of the answers are British birds



WILDLIFE NOTES

You can't keep everybody happy

At last it's raining but the long dry September has been an opportunity to cut down the undergrowth in parts of Sculcoates Cemetery. This exposes the headstones and pleases the family historians but there is still time for re-growth to provide some cover for wildlife in winter. It's also the time of year for tackling the **Japanese knotweed**.



Japanese knotweed PHOTO: Alan Worsley

Cutting a way through the undergrowth is the main problem. The strongest clumps are usually well out of reach. Once there a quick cut with the loppers and a syringe full of diluted glyphosate weedkiller

into each hollow stem should finish the job. The empty spaces will soon be filled with wildflowers and more native trees, especially wild fruits. That should keep the foragers busy.

The cemetery took joint 2nd place for its contribution to wildlife in the *Hull in Bloom* competition and thanks go to the regular volunteers, mainly Louise and Community Payback. Meanwhile the campers seem comfortable though they haven't found the new litter-bin yet, nor heard of recycling. One ex-pat was upset when he couldn't find an ancestral gravestone. It's not listed in the Hull and East Riding survey so possibly there never was one.

David Longthorn

TTIP comes out from the shadows

Last ECO we reported on the **Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership**, which is a trade deal instigated by the US to 'harmonise' regulations between US and EU states. FoE had drawn attention to the danger that if it is adopted we could lose many of the hard won regulations protecting our environment and health.

Online petition organisation *38Degrees* has since taken up the cause of opposing the partnership and brought the issue out into the open. On 30 August and again on 11 October Days of Action were held throughout Britain, including in Hull, to draw public attention to the power that this trade deal will place in the hands of big business. Many people are particularly worried that it will open the door to US healthcare companies to privatise parts of the NHS, a process that future governments will be powerless to reverse.

It was very impressive the way in which *38Degrees* were able to rapidly mobilise action. Within a few hours of the Day of Action being suggested, over 20 people in Hull were discussing how and where to organise stalls which were held in Princes and Newland Avenues. *38Degrees* provided leaflets to hand out and posters.

Petitioners are now asked to put pressure on MEPs to stop this deal. **Can you email your MEP and ask them to stop TTIP now?**

<https://secure.38degrees.org.uk/email-meps>

Hilary Byers

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Hull Friends of the Earth

Hull FoE membership

I wish to become a member of Hull FoE <input type="checkbox"/>		PAYMENT	
I wish to renew my Hull FoE membership <input type="checkbox"/>		Please note: subs are due by 1 April each year	
Name (Mr/Mrs/Ms)		I enclose:	
Address		Membership or subscription fee (£5 waged, £2 unwaged)	£
		Donation	£
Postcode		Total	£
Telephone		<i>Please make cheques payable to:</i>	
Email		Hull Friends of the Earth & send to Membership Secretary	

I 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

How do you want to get ECO?

- by email (in colour)?
 - in print by post?
 Tick either, or both

We welcome your donations!

Many of our members are very generous and give us a donation on top of their membership fee; if you can spare a bit extra we really appreciate it. It all helps our campaigning efforts and to keep you informed through ECO. (See below...)

We encourage you to pay your subscription by annual Standing Order. This prevents you from forgetting to pay and saves us sending reminders. But because of problems with fraud we are no longer printing the form here. Please contact Angela (details below) if you want to pay by Standing Order.

SUBS WERE DUE FOR 2014 BY 1 APRIL

Thanks to everyone who paid their 2014 Hull FoE subs. If you are a national Friends of the Earth member you do need to pay separately to be a Local Group member. Subs remain at £2 unwaged and £5 waged. And if you are inclined to forget, please take out a Standing Order (see above).

Ings Primary runs on sun Continued from page 1

The panels are on the school's extensive flat roofs and hardly visible from the ground. There are several schools of a similar age and design in Hull which could also benefit from solar panels. Ings is aiming to become an Eco school. It has a vegetable garden, and a

recently opened school kitchen both supplies healthy meals and enables the children to learn to cook. It is about to plant native hedgerow species around its 0.8Km perimeter fence.

Hilary Byers and Lee-ann Williams

We are also on **Facebook:** To get to it: www.facebook.com Register—if you haven't already and then go to the box at the top called "search for people places and things". Just type in "Hull Friends of the

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

Hilary

Share your news?

Hull ECO welcomes news and views of all things environmental in Hull and East Yorkshire.

Deadlines are the first Tuesday in January, April, July, October.

Please send to **Hilary (details below)**. Offers of help to deliver newsletters in your area are very welcome!

HULL FRIENDS OF THE EARTH - CONTACTS

Coordinator	Sue Jolliffe, 47 Kingsway, Cottingham HU16 5BB	Tel: (01482) 845958	Email: sue@jolliffe.karoo.co.uk
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Web	www.foe.co.uk/hull or www.hfoe.org.uk		Email: jolliffe@jolliffe.karoo.co.uk