



DIARY DATES

Tues 2 Feb, 7pm

HFoE meeting at Vintage Café, Chanterlands Avenue HU5 3TP
7pm informal, 7.30pm business

Tues 1 March 7pm

HFoE meeting at Vintage Café, Chanterlands Avenue HU5 3TP
7pm informal, 7.30pm business

Mon 5 April 7pm prompt

AGM 7PM START, followed by normal meeting
HFoE meeting at Vintage Café, Chanterlands Avenue HU5 3TP.

SEE ALSO OTHER EVENTS INSIDE...

Living rivers or dead drains?



Floodplain where the Trent, Derwent and Humber meet, viewed from Alkborough in Lincolnshire

The cry of “dredge the rivers” was taken up by people around the country as an apparently simple solution to the complex issue of flood prevention, not realising that the interests of the drainage lobby (who are promoting dredging) are at odds with the need for flood defences. There are even claims by the politically motivated anti-European Union group that the EU is preventing dredging!

The drainage assumption is that the flood water must reach the sea quicker; the thought that it has to pass through towns such as Hull, Beverley, York or indeed Bridgewater, flooding them on the way, never occurs or is conveniently ignored.

Flood alleviation may mean slowing the flow, spreading the flood water out over the land

and preventing the sudden rushes of water that overwhelm flood defences such as flood banks, pumping stations and washlands.

Most people recognise that the major floods of the past few years have been the result of prolonged heavy rainfall. (When Hull flooded in 2007 we all knew it was the rain.) However, despite record rainfall in the West Country in 2014 one or two diehard drainage men were determined that the reason the Somerset Levels flooded was because the costly and ineffective practice of dredging the rivers had ceased. They were harking back to the old days when everything was done to support agricultural production, whether it was cost effective or not.

The other factor that is conveniently ignored is

where the silt in the rivers comes from. Geology, natural erosion, tidal sediments play a part, but much of it comes from farmland. Poor soil conservation and bad land management practices result in hundreds of thousands of tons of silt entering our rivers every year.

We use our rivers for sewage disposal, water supply, irrigation, cooling power stations and supplying industrial processes, fishing, recreation and as habitats for wildlife. Treating them simply as drains is to attempt to “trump” all other interests, including flood alleviation, where holding water back on land is the alternative to rushing it down stream into someone’s living room.

Politicians who haven’t got a clue will grasp

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ECO Chit Chat

Economics, Deforestation, Climate Change, Flooding, and what we do locally. We see the connections between these things but do the decision-makers? Come and join us and other 'green' groups in trying to get the message across.



Flooding and energy crops. The Environment Agency has carried out experiments into growing energy crops—Miscanthus and willow, on flood plains as a measure to reduce the flow of floodwaters. They found that they were effective, acting as 'leaky dams' reducing the speed of flow, providing the crops were planted in large, quite dense blocks, preferably across the full width of the flood plain. Otherwise the water flowed round the planted area, reducing the effectiveness, and possibly scouring the land. Miscanthus was the more effective crop at flood depths of up to 1m. www.gov.uk/government/publications/energy-crops-and-floodplain-flows



Solar not so sunny The tariffs being offered to households for solar have been reduced by less than originally proposed (65% compared to 87%). However, the overall spending cap for all technologies (wind, solar, hydro and anaerobic digestion) remains at £100 million until 2018 – just £35 million per year. Tax relief for investing in community energy projects has also been removed. Friends of the Earth said: "It's outrageous that the government continues to hand out billions of pounds in subsidies every year to climate-wrecking fossil fuels, while trying to block the clean energy sources we urgently need to power our homes, hospitals and schools."



The Food Waste (Reduction) Bill will receive its second reading on January 29th 2016. It requires large supermarkets and manufacturers to reduce their food waste by 30% by 2025, and supermarkets to donate unsold food to prevent edible food from being binned.



Hedgehog Street is a campaign aimed at ensuring the hedgehog remains a common and familiar part of British life. We've lost a third of all our hedgehogs in ten years, and it seems likely that there are now fewer than a million

hedgehogs left in the UK. Hedgehogs need to be able to roam freely between gardens, so it is about getting neighbours to cooperate by leaving gaps in their fences, as well as wildlife friendly gardening.



PHOTO: by Hedgehog Champion Mark Sant on hedgehogstreet.org

For how to become a Hedgehog Champion see www.hedgehogstreet.org

AGM

Tuesday, 5 April 2016, at 7.00 pm

Vintage Café, 209 Chanterlands Avenue HULL HU5 3TP

Please note the early start time as we have the AGM and ordinary business.

The Annual General Meeting is your opportunity to take an active role in the group and have a say in what the group should be doing and how.

We'd love to meet you, even if you've not been to our meetings before. Or why not come in February or March for a chat with the 'regulars' about what sort of role you might play?

Subs are due for 2016 by 5 April please



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 (until the AGM on 5 April, at least)—what good value!

And if you are inclined to forget, please take out a Standing Order (see back page).

Growing together

Growing Together Hull is a community agriculture scheme that wants to develop a closer relationship between farmers and consumers, offering complete transparency on all matters including production methods, financial reports, future plans etc.

We will be producing a wide variety of **seasonal vegetables** 52 weeks a year and **free range (on pasture) eggs**. We also have a long term plan of producing grass fed beef. All products will be available through the **box scheme model** as this offers a direct market for the produce and eliminates waste.

All products will be sold on the basis of cost, plus overheads and appropriate surplus to protect the business against unforeseen risks.

Members of the farm are encouraged to sign up for a year and pay an annual, monthly or weekly subscription, which will support the farm and provide a fair income for the staff. In return for this commitment members will receive a share of the produce and are welcome to join in the farming process.

Members will have direct access to the land from which their food comes. An active social area will be maintained for members to use, and regular volunteer days, open day events and strong lines of communication will ensure that all members can contribute on a practical level. We will also be offering an opportunity for some members to work 3 hours a week for a share of the produce, and some members will have a chance to be elected onto the steering committee that directs the farm. At Annual General Meetings all members will be consulted on key issues.

However to be a member it is not necessary to be involved in the running of the farm. Some people want and deserve access to high quality local food but have too many other commitments to be involved in the production process, therefore a financial contribution is enough. We will be making deliveries to homes and drop off points around the area.

As the farm will be directly accountable to the members, we will strive to produce fresh, high quality nutrient-dense food that is grown with a respect for natural habitat and without the use of any pesticides or chemical fertilisers. We want to reach out to the people who have concerns about the way their food is produced and distributed. There will be a strong arrangement of accountability; any members with complaints have direct communication with staff. This interaction will help us improve the service.

It's an alternative way of doing business based on the old co-operative mechanism. Our main aim is not financial or private interest but providing access to goods and services on a fair and sustainable basis.

As our driving principles are Health, Education and Social Inclusion, we will be providing health, education and



Growing Together Farm, Grange Road, Beverley HU17 9FS

social care services. By working closely with a naturopathic nutritionist we can offer practical health advice, and through an integrative psychotherapist we can offer a service for excluded members of society. Also as the farm becomes more established education schemes and internships will be available.

It has been agreed with Molescroft Grange Farm near Beverley that we can use a 5.5 acre field. As we expand; there is an adjacent 9.5 acre field that is available when we need it. The land is currently grass and has been in a five year higher level stewardship scheme since 2011. The land is available to use from the end of April 2016.

Our produce will be available from summer 2017.

Until then we need people to get in touch via e-mail or facebook; tell us if you are interested in buying your food from a local community owned source, if you would like to be involved in some way, or would like to know more about the organisation.

E-mail: growingtogetherhull@gmail.com

Facebook: Growing Together Hull
or telephone Ben: 07756 864 156

Ben Allwood

A New Economics for a new future

The one thing I believe in above all others is holism. Put differently, we need to look at the totality of all situations. Elsewhere it is called joined up thinking. We may have to concentrate on particular aspects for specific actions, but if we cannot see the whole picture we can not hope to achieve positive change.

If we think we can consider environmental needs independently of how economics works, we will fail. Equally clearly, an economics which does not entwine itself with environmental and social needs will bring disaster. The evidence for this is all around us at the moment.

The work of the **New Economics Foundation** not only demonstrates that the present economic thinking is out of date, bankrupt and leading us to disaster, but NEF has also played a huge part in providing some of the solutions, both small and large scale.

“The New Economics Foundation is the UK’s leading think tank promoting social, economic and environmental justice. Our purpose is to transform the economy so that it works for people and the planet” (NEF mission statement)

NEF is 30 years old. Its antecedents include the Schumacher society, and it was conceived as the permanent secretariat to TOES (The Other Economic Summit, created to challenge the 1986 G7 summit in London).

“Since the first TOES conference, the ideas we promoted—green taxes, alternative economic indicators, ethical investment and social auditing—have become mainstream. We have given birth to a range of new organisations to carry on work in those fields and others, including Jubilee 2000, the Ethical Trading Initiative, AccountAbility, Time Banking UK, the London Rebuilding Society, the Community Development Finance Association and many others.”

In the past year, NEF has reached over 100 countries, made 1100+ media appearances and published 26 reports.

Among many other things, it has:

- ▶ Provided the model to prove the economic benefits of sustainable fishing.
- ▶ Provided the argument for leaving oil near Gatwick in the ground.
- ▶ Produced major research challenging the dominant food provision chain.
- ▶ Played a major role in helping to design people-powered money systems.

NEF has a very accessible website; I encourage everyone to explore it: www.neweconomics.org

It provides an enjoyable and informative weekly economics podcast on diverse issues, which has 160,000 listeners including MPs: <http://www.neweconomics.org/projects/entry/weekly-economics-podcast>

Their blog is always worth a visit. You might try: <http://www.neweconomics.org/blog/entry/the-paris-climate-conference-is-over-what-happens-next>

Or you might like to start with the Facebook page: [neweconomics](https://www.facebook.com/neweconomics).

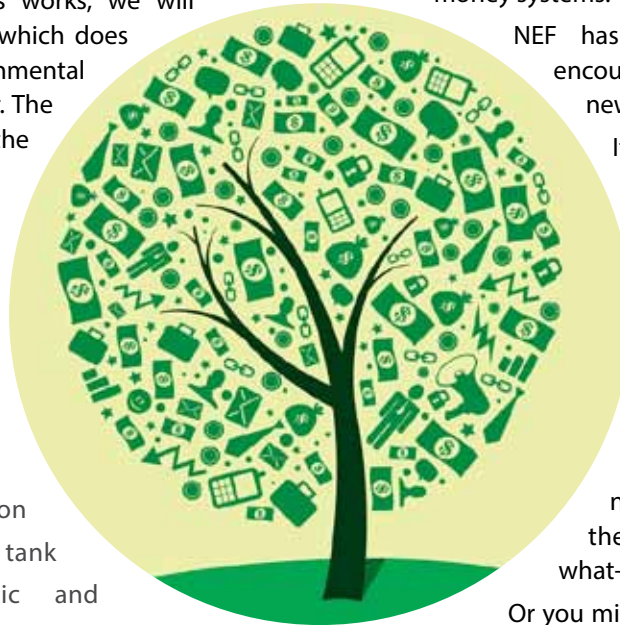
Let NEF have the last word:

“From climate change to the financial crisis, it is clear the current economic system is not fit for purpose. We need a great transition to a new economics that can deliver for people and the planet.

NEF’s mission is to kick-start the move to a new economy through big ideas and fresh thinking. We do this through:

- ▶ high quality, ground-breaking research that shows what is wrong with the current economy and how it can be better;
- ▶ demonstrating the power of our ideas by putting them into action, and
- ▶ working with other organisations in the UK and across the world, to build a movement for economic change.”

Angela Needham



Deforestation in the 21st century

(Part 1)

A scientific paper published this year, based on the latest remote sensing and mapping technology, concludes that there are just over 400 trees for every human being on the planet, - a total of 3.04 trillion trees (Crowther TW et al. 2015 —Mapping Tree Density at a Global Scale, *Nature* 525, 201-207). The same study, though, puts the current rate of deforestation as 192,000 square kilometres per year —twice as much as previously thought — and estimates that half the forested area of the world has disappeared since human history (the “Anthropocene Era”, as geologists now refer to it) began. However measured, the deforestation rate has not reduced over the past 10 years, despite the best efforts of various governmental and international organisations to reduce it, so what exactly is going on?

2015 saw the appearance of two detailed reports on deforestation, one by a charity linked to Prince Charles (PCFISU) (<http://www.pcfisu.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Princes-Charities-International-Sustainability-Unit-Tropical-Forests-A-Review.pdf>), the other by an organisation representing large institutional investors, the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) (<https://www.cdp.net/CDPResults/CDP-global-forests-report-2015.pdf>). In November, I attended an Innovation Forum (IF) conference in London, organised by, among others, former FoE director Tony Juniper. This conference brought delegates from a variety of international companies together with NGOs to discuss what business can do to halt deforestation. These three sources form the basis of what follows.

The two largest forces driving deforestation globally are the demand for wood products (timber, plywood, paper, card, cellulose), and the demand for palm oil. Some way behind these come cattle ranching and soya bean cultivation, both geared mainly to the production of meat for us to eat, and milk to drink. There are also some more local issues. One relevant to us is the **extraordinary deforestation currently in progress in the south-eastern USA** in order to supply the Drax power station in Yorkshire with wood pellets.

In this article I focus on wood products.

Deforestation and wood products

Certification schemes attempt to trace wood products back to their source, and only certify those producers who legally harvest from sustainably-managed forests. They have been the mainstay of efforts to halt this driver of deforestation for nearly 30 years. First in the field was the Rainforest Alliance, founded 1987, and operating now in 9 countries. In 1993 the Forestry Stewardship Council (FSC) was formed in the wake of the failure of the Rio Earth Summit to include any commitment against deforestation, and it now operates in 80 countries from a secretariat based in Bonn. Since the millennium a number of national schemes have sprung up, for instance the Soil Association’s “Woodmark” in the UK. In 2005 the Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification

(PEFC) was founded as an international umbrella organisation for these schemes. The UK branch headquarters is in Sheffield. The logos of these 3 organisations are shown below – it is ALWAYS worth looking for one of these on any new wood product that you are proposing to buy.



All these bodies now work to similar criteria, which may be summarised as:

- ▶ **Protect endangered species and forest areas of high conservation value.**
- ▶ **Set aside a portion of land as forest reserve.**
- ▶ **Provide workers with decent wages and protect their ability to organize.**
- ▶ **Follow FSC guidelines that determine how, when and where timber and non-timber forest products are harvested.**
- ▶ **Respect the rights of local communities and indigenous people.**

About 10% of the timber traded worldwide, and a commendable 80% of the timber imported into the UK, is now certified under one or other of these schemes. If universally adhered to, they would make illegally-logged timber unsaleable worldwide. However 10% is not much, and the proportion in the southern hemisphere, where deforestation is of greatest concern, is even lower.

In March 2013, a European Union Timber Regulation came into force with 3 key obligations:

- 1 **It prohibits the placing of illegally harvested timber and products derived from such timber on the EU market, whether they are of domestic or imported origin.**
- 2 **Timber accompanied by a FLEGT (Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade) or CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) licence will be accepted as legal. In all other cases, operators must exercise “due diligence” when they introduce imported and domestic timber or timber products on the EU market.**
- 3 **Traders (those after the operators in the supply chain) need to keep records of their suppliers (and customers, unless they are end consumers). In this way the operators can always be traced.**

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Whatever happened to tidal power?

The generation of electricity from renewable sources in this century has already seen many ups and downs. From the technical failure of wave power, to the technical triumphs of wind turbines and photovoltaic solar panels which have been marred by lack of political will in the face of public disagreements over their aesthetics and over the role of government subsidy, it continues to be a bumpy ride. But what has happened to the development of turbines to generate electricity from the numerous tidal streams of Britain's inshore waters?

On 15 October, around 30 people gathered at the University of Hull, where Hull FoE had invited Professor Jack Hardisty to try and answer this question. Jack is professor of environmental engineering at the university, and has spent over 30 years in researching and trying to develop tidal power.

He began by reminding the audience of the basis of tides in the orbit of the moon around the earth, and by explaining two basic engineering facts about turbines. Firstly, that the power output from a turbine is proportional to the density of the fluid flowing through it, hence water will deliver more power than wind. Secondly, that power depends on the cube of the flow rate – hence a tidal stream of 4 knots will deliver eight times as much power as a stream of 2 knots. From this he went on to explain the advantages of tidal power in the Humber:

Advantages of tidal power in the Humber estuary:

- ▶ Tides are wholly predictable, unlike wind, waves and sunshine.
- ▶ Government subsidies for the electricity generated remain favourable.
- ▶ Humber has one of the fastest tidal streams in the UK (up to 5 knots).
- ▶ No point is more than 8 miles from the nearest connection to the National Grid.
- ▶ There are no large waves which might damage turbines.

- ▶ Small floating turbines could be aligned to permit normal navigation and silt deposition.

Jack attributed most of the failure to develop this so far to a government decision taken over 20 years ago, and without prior consultation with industry, to allocate all tidal R&D money to deep-water streams requiring large seabed (as opposed to floating) turbines, such as Orkney and Cornwall. These test centres have not prospered, despite the investment. Further obstacles lie in the cost – around £250,000 - of obtaining separate development permits from all the various bodies which oversee the Humber estuary, and in the lack of capital for small companies entering this field. He suggested two practical solutions, which would enable a shallow-water test centre to be developed in the Humber:

What is needed to develop tidal power in the Humber?

- ▶ Tax relief on private investment in research and development in tidal power.
- ▶ Alteration of planning rules to allow a single generic application for development in the Humber.

With Hull promoting itself, on the back of the existing investment in offshore wind power, as a “hub for renewable energy industries”, we should be asking our MPs to remedy this neglect of a valuable source of renewable energy.

Rohan Lewis

PS Professor Hardisty mentioned that the Humber close to St Andrews Dock was particularly suitable for tidal generation. Given the apparent lack of any progress in developing land in this area, I'd have thought the Council might welcome tidal power generation in the Humber in this location. Have they been asked, I wonder?

Hilary

Deforestation in the 21st century, continued from page 5

Enforcement appears to be patchy at present, and mostly confined to northern and western Europe.

Although the UK's Timber Trades Federation has endorsed these rules, the regulations apply to unprocessed timber only. Furniture already manufactured is not covered, nor is the standard sheet of hardwood plywood, indispensable to the average British joiner. Nearly all this plywood comes from Chinese factories, which are wholly unconcerned where their wood comes from. It is untraceable to its ultimate source, and provides a continuing ready market for illegally-logged timber worldwide.

A 10-year study, presented at the IF conference, of illegal logging in the 19 largest timber-producing countries, concluded that:

- ▶ The same quantity of illegally-logged timber is coming onto the market today as 10 years ago.

- ▶ Most goes to China, now the world's biggest timber importer, although around 10% of wood products imported to the UK may still be from illegally-logged virgin forest.
- ▶ The fall in logging carried out to obtain high-value timber, resulting from consumer pressure, has been counterbalanced by the increased population pressure to clear land for other uses.
- ▶ Traceability is hampered by the nature of the supply chain, which has large numbers of small companies involved in both logging and importing.

So much for illegal logging: but what if a government itself decides to clear forest, to make way for a more valuable crop? In the next issue of ECO, we shall look at deforestation and Palm Oil.

Rohan Lewis

'Act local' on flooding – Pickering shows how

This is a shortened version of an article which appeared in the Independent on January 2nd*, with some thoughts of my own. Can we explore these ideas further to see if we can find places where similar action might be appropriate, and seek to get them appropriately publicised?

Pickering was a high flood risk area.

There were plans to build a concrete barrier. This idea was too expensive and was also not liked by the town, as it would have spoiled it.

So local people looked for a solution which would work with, rather than against, nature.

They discovered that the monks from Byland Abbey in the Middle Ages had built a bund to hold back the water.

The locals worked with experts from a variety of universities and discovered that the old ways were best. Armed with this research they managed to convince local authorities, the Environment Agency, the Forestry Commission and DEFRA. They built 167 'leaky dams' and

187 lesser obstructions made of bales of heather. They planted 29 hectares (70 acres) of woodland. And finally they built a bund (embankment) to hold 120,000 cubic metres of water, releasing it slowly through a culvert.

Three months after the inauguration came the floods. **All around was flooded but Pickering stayed dry.** The measures cost £2m, a tenth of the cost of the proposed wall [which experts doubt would have worked anyway]. Similar measures but more high-tech worked for Glasgow, and Potteric Carr nature reserve has provided the same service for Doncaster.

Of course, this is not the answer everywhere. These floods and other recent ones have made many people more aware of the reality of climate change. We are told we must expect more floods in the future. The government must do more. But appropriate action by local people can also be beneficial.

This action should include protecting bogs, which hold large amounts of water. Landowners expanding grouse moors are said to have been a major cause of increased flooding in Hebdon Bridge, for instance, but government grants are still helping them to burn off the heather.

Another cause of problems is felling trees to make way for grass crops, especially maize which is exempt from soil conservation rules governing other crops.

Trees enable rain to penetrate land 60 times faster than grassland. But our hills are increasingly overstocked with sheep. It is government subsidies and grants which determine how this marginal land is used.

Dredging rivers is often a cause rather than remedy of the problem, since it makes rivers flow faster to the lowlands. Blocking ditches in Montgomeryshire has enabled the land to hold 155 million more litres.

So what can we do? Where might local schemes in our area be helpful?

Is there a project here for us?

Angela Needham

*Source: The Independent, 2 January 2016, Geoffrey Lean

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/uk-flooding-how-a-yorkshire-flood-blackspot-worked-with-nature-to-stay-dry-a6794286.html>

Living rivers or dead drains?
continued from page 1

at any simple solution to keep voters happy (including flushing vast amounts of public money down the drain). They compound the problem by sanctioning environmentally ruinous and financially unsustainable schemes, setting the clock back to a time when such matters were not considered. Only when we have political leaders and a public who better understand the world around them will we be in a position to take rational decisions of how to best respond to environmental crises.

The following websites have links to articles that may be of interest.

www.anglingtrust.net
www.ciwem.org

Mr Fisher

Frack Free North Yorkshire

draw attention to an article in the Independent which says that home insurance firms may refuse to cover contamination from polluted flood water if you live within 5 miles of a shale gas exploration site. It is said that 1 in 5 of the sites newly identified as suitable for exploration for fracking are at risk of flooding.

www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/households-affected-by-floods

KNOW YOUR SPRING ONIONS!

7 week course starts

Wed 3 February 2016

10am-12noon at Boulevard
Village Hall, Boulevard
Hull, HU3 2UE

Sociable gardening course in a supportive classroom environment, with outdoor practical work, weather permitting.

£44.10 or free to those on means-tested benefit. Organised by WEA

Contact Lauren Farmer on

lfarmer@wea.org.uk

tel 07816 141169

Or just turn up on the day

Paris—December 2015

COP21 and the International Fracking Summit

The 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference was held in Paris from Nov 30th to 12th Dec. Known as COP21, as it was the 21st yearly session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. 195 countries sat down together and there seemed to be agreement on a target of 1.5°C. Naomi Klein

twittered her preferred translation of the results

<http://theleap.thischangeseverything.org/why-most-of-what-you-think-you-know-about-the-paris-climate-deal-is-wrong-an-annotated-news-story-2/>

Thousands of people from all over the world came to attend as delegates and also just to provide a voice for the planet.

FoE International teamed up with Global Justice Now and a host of other NGOs to stage a week of events for people to come together. Two weeks before the COP was due to start, Paris was shaken by a spate of attacks which left the population in shock, all plans in chaos and the city put on lockdown. All outdoor gatherings were banned.

Despite the difficulties, people still came to Paris and FoE France and FoE International heroically reorganised a schedule in a very short time with the cautious blessings of the authorities.

International Fracking Summit — Not Here, Not Anywhere

As part of the week's events FoE Europe, Earthworks, Stop The Frack Attack, Food&Water Watch and Attac France brought together anti-fracking activists from all over the world. Over 140 people from 34 countries attended.

I was invited along with 10 other local FoE members and community



campaigners to attend the summit – the first of its kind.

We had presentations from France, the US—Pennsylvania, California and New York, indigenous people from Oklahoma, North Dakota and Sydney—people from the successful Lock the Gate movement in Australia; Algeria, Argentina, South Africa and the UK—Lancashire and Scotland.

Many of us were in tears at the stories people told of their everyday battles living alongside fracking sites. Children with regular nosebleeds, premature deaths, cancer clusters, animals suffering, aquifers ruined. And on the reservations—declared sacrifice zones, tales of tiny coffins and people who were elders before their time, the horrendous results of an influx of workers creating an imbalance of men to women of 10 to 1 and the tragic cases of increased violence, rape and drug use.

New York author Sandra Steingraber spoke as did John Fenton and we heard a personal message from Josh Fox who had intended being at the summit until it was announced that his new film is to be premiered at the Sundance festival.

We made friendships, new links and it felt like the beginning of something amazing.

And for something truly amazing, here's Josh Fox's address to the International Fracking Summit: <https://vimeo.com/149079139>

Naomi Klein

Naomi Klein was in Paris for the COP and was speaking on a panel after our summit and it seemed fitting to go along. Naomi spoke in front of a crowd of about 3000, hanging on her every word about how the global free market ideology is in direct conflict with the battle to halt climate change; - how deregulated capitalism

and corporate trade deals are at war with our planetary boundaries. This is what her book 'This Changes Everything' is about.

A reasonably complete transcript of her speech is here:

<http://beyondcassandra.org/trade-trumps-climate-naomi-klein/>

Big Message: Climate. Justice. Peace.

And look what we did! Hundreds of us were organised into groups and sent to prearranged spots around Paris. We sent a signal via our smartphones to a website which plotted our positions on a graphic of Paris. FoE France (Les Amis de la Terre) planned this with little time and many restrictions but what an action!

People Power Action

Outdoor actions were banned so FoE rearranged the big get together and thousands of FoE from all over the world and friends from other orgs joined together for workshops, food and a massive party.

Check out the Hull FoE facebook page soon for more photos of this event and other events in Paris.

Leeann

Rohan's Wood - 4 acres in Lincolnshire

In July's Eco, Rohan told us about a 4 acre area of woodland in Lincolnshire which he has bought to manage for biodiversity (see 'A Woodsman's Tale' in Eco July 2015). In August five Hull FoE members visited the wood with Rohan to see progress at first hand.



Rohan introduces us to his 4 acre wood in Lincolnshire (see 'A Woodsman's Tale' in ECO July 2015)



Angela, Leeann and Graham (and a stray dog) get up close to the wildlife.



Rohan and Helen look at the effects of temporary fencing to keep deer out of part of the wood and allow regeneration.



Leeann, Helen, Hilary and Angela visit Rohan's wood in Lincolnshire.

After Paris—where now?

There were mixed reactions to the outcome of the Paris Climate Summit—politicians and mainstream media greeted the agreement as a historic step forward, climate activists were more sceptical; binding commitments were hard to discern, national contributions (NDCs) are inadequate, funding levels a fraction of what is needed.

It is grass-roots action at the local level that will change the political climate to make real, transformative action possible.

Schumacher North, together with partners and supporters across the Yorkshire region, are now launching a **Zero Carbon Yorkshire** movement to make sure Yorkshire is among the first UK regions to formulate and deliver a viable Zero Carbon strategy. We want to work with activist groups, local authorities, businesses, public sector bodies, universities and individuals in every Yorkshire city, town and district to design local Zero Carbon Plans, and combine these into a regional strategy that will command huge public support—then demand that

the UK government gets out of our way and lets us get on with it!

To do this, we need your help!

We are calling on climate activists, concerned citizens, business people, local politicians of every stripe—and basically everyone! — to join us at:

Zero Carbon Yorkshire Launch Day

6 February 2016

11.00 am - 5.00 pm

Leeds Civic Hall or Leeds City Museum (*venue to be confirmed very shortly*)

for a day of Open Space conversation to help us create a vision for a better, cleaner, greener Yorkshire that will be free of fossil fuels in the shortest possible time—providing an example for all other UK regions of what needs to be (and can be) done if we are to tackle the 21st century's greatest challenge.

Please join us, tell all your friends, visit the new Zero Carbon Yorkshire website, join the Facebook group—and book for the event at:

<https://zcyllaunch.eventbrite.co.uk>

David Midgley



LOCAL GREEN GROUPS - news and events

Green Drinks: informal get together. All welcome

Beverley meet every 13th of the month at the Green Dragon.

Hull meet every 19th of month at 7pm at Admiral of the Humber. hullgreendrinks@gmail.com

Food4Hull

meets 7pm Monday 18 January in the Olde White Hart, Silver Street, to discuss activities for the coming year.

Contact: <http://food4hull.co.uk> or lee-ann@food4hull.co.uk

Anti-fracking talks in Driffield

by Assistant Bishop of York and a local GP. Friday 22 January, 7.30pm at Bell Hotel, Market Place, HU25 6AN

City herb garden project

Down to Earth is a Hull-based community group whose aims include: facilitating people's engagement with their natural environment; supporting people to improve their physical and mental health through food growing, herbal medicine and interaction with their natural environment; inspiring people to work together to improve their neighbourhoods, and creating more natural and living spaces within the city.

We would like to create a **medicinal herb garden** and envisage that this would improve the health of the local community in a wide variety of ways.

We have identified a site in the Falmouth Street area of Hull (HU5) which would allow us to create a garden that would be open-access (during daylight hours) throughout the week. We hope that the herb garden will provide a lasting physical resource for the West Hull area and the wider city, as an area for learning, personal development and tranquility.

To get in touch go to:

Down to Earth-Hull on Facebook
or www.facebook.com/d2ehull
Phone or text Andy on 07936006452
or email: down-2-earth@outlook.com

The Crunch

The Wellcome Trust have launched an initiative called **The Crunch** which will run during 2016. The Crunch will be a programme of activities, experiences and discussions about our food, our health and our planet.

There will be a regional event in Hull on 11 June at The Octagon Centre.

The initiative is looking for passionate people of all ages and from all walks of life to become Ambassadors for The Crunch, who will kickstart conversations about our food, our health, and our planet. It's a great opportunity for individuals to build new skills, meet inspiring people and have some fun. Ambassadors will receive free resources and be connected to amazing people in the local area who are interested in the future of food and drink.

To start off they can attend a free Ambassador networking event where they will meet like-minded people and share ideas on 11 June at The Octagon Centre. Ambassador spaces are limited so sign up online and reserve a space.

For more info and to sign up as an Ambassador go to thecrunch.wellcome.ac.uk

They are also looking to recruit various professionals and students, so if you have any contacts with individuals and organisations who may be interested, please spread the word.

Secret Rainbow Garden

At **Rainbow Community Garden** we discovered a 'secret garden' last year adjacent to our site. It is a beautiful area which was covered in brambles. We can offer this for outdoor events (provided they are not too noisy as elderly residents live nearby).

More info from Jeannie:07504292378

Avenues Bicycle Project

will take any donated bike as long as it's not rusted up. They are refurbished by prisoners and then sent to West Africa; a consignment is going soon to Sierra Leone.

If you have a bike or spare parts to donate, phone or text 07715307942 or email avenuesbicycleproject@gmail.com

Washing the oil out of my pension

There is a good chance that you, or someone you know, is a member of the East Riding Pension Fund. Workers in most schools and colleges, local government and many quangos and charities, 186 organisations in total, are members. It has a reputation for being well managed (and yes, I do know I'm fortunate these days to have a workplace pension), so I did have some reservations about 'rocking the boat'. However, sometimes it is a good idea to ask questions about what is being done with your money. And I'm not convinced that these days it's a good idea for funds to be invested in fossil fuels.

So I joined 2 other members of the fund to attend the AGM on Friday 6 November at County Hall Beverley. Any member is entitled to attend the AGM, of course, but you could tell that the managers were not used to 'ordinary' members turning up. After a bit of confusion we did get in to listen to the reports.

About 6.7% of the fund's assets, amounting to £243m, is invested in fossil fuel companies. These include BP, Shell, British Gas and 3 coal companies mining abroad. One of us had submitted a question in advance about disinvesting in fossil fuels. The managers reminded us that they are required by law to manage funds in the best financial interests of the members and cannot take decisions on political, social or environmental grounds. We responded that our concern was financial: is it sound to be investing in companies that are going to have to leave most of their raw materials in the ground if countries are to meet the carbon targets? In general the answer was that they might be able to influence things more by continuing to invest so that they can encourage change from the inside. (There is a lot more about this on www.lapfforum.org).

Diana Johnson MP asked similar questions of the Parliamentary Pension Fund. Part of the reply she got was:

'Guidance from the Pensions Regulator states that, where pension scheme trustees think environmental, social or governance issues are financially material to investments, they should take these into account. The law also permits trustees to make investment decisions influenced by non-financial factors, provided they have good reason to think scheme members share the concern and there is no risk of significant detriment to the fund.'

So it might be that more of us have to voice our concerns.

I'm not expecting change quickly. Analogies about turning round oil tankers are perhaps especially apt here. But funds did divest from tobacco. And wouldn't it be good if a local pension fund could invest a proportion of their huge assets in local renewable energy schemes?

Hilary Byers

Transition Hull and Hull Permaculture Network in 2016

This year we will be integrating Transition Hull and the Hull Permaculture Network.

The potential for Transition can be enhanced by adopting permaculture principles, as illustrated by the fact that the Kinsale Energy Descent Plan was developed as a permaculture design. Rob Hopkins, famous as the initiator of the Transition movement, is also a permaculture teacher.

After our usual January Christmas Party we are planning two further spring meetings. **In February** we will meet to see a short film on permaculture, initiate a discussion on permaculture and transition, and maybe look at a permaculture design for the merger.

Now that the world is beginning to take climate change seriously, we are planning a session on **'Ten easy steps to live a greener lifestyle'** in March. A small panel will invite examples and questions from the audience, on actions

you can take which count—from large scale projects like installing solar panels, through to smaller scale actions like growing your own, shopping locally and using public transport.

During the better weather and longer evenings, we will be arranging **visits to local sites** being developed by people interested in permaculture, to take place in April, May, June and July. Also during these months there will be a regular **weekly volunteering session** at Constable Street Field to take forward the exciting planned developments. Transition Hull will be involved in the **August Fun Day** at the site again this year.

The autumn meetings are yet to be planned in detail but we hope to have a speaker from the UK who can cover the strengths of permaculture and transition coming together, and a **live link-up** to a transition permaculture initiative in New Zealand.

Also on the agenda this year will be working with other green groups and advertising their activities on the mailing list. We hope to work with others towards setting up a **Schumacher North group**, after the successful meeting in Hull in May last year. As a founder participant of the local Greenshare Network, we will be supporting its annual conference and also hope to contribute to the revitalisation of the network in other ways.

- ▶ Mon 8 Feb: **Permaculture and transition.** Short film on permaculture and discussion.
- ▶ Mon 14 March: **Ten easy steps to live a greener lifestyle.** Actions which will count.

All at 7.45 pm, Boulevard Village Hall.

For more info ring Lausanne on 07816 141169.

To join the mailing list email Jenny@transitionhull.co.uk



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"/>		Payment 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> Hull Friends of the Earth , and send to the Membership Secretary (<i>address below</i>)	
Email			
I WANT TO PAY BY STANDING ORDER <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"/>	How do you want to get ECO? ▶ by email (in colour)? <input type="checkbox"/> ▶ in print by post? <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Tick either, or both</i>	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 (<i>see below...</i>)	
Subs will be due by 5 April 2016. Pay now and you will get them at this year's rate! 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

Coordinator:	Sue Jolliffe, 47 Kingsway, Cottingham, HU16 5BB	Tel: 845958 Email: sue@jolliffe.karoo.co.uk
Membership Secretary:	Angela Needham, 124 Etherington Road, Hull HU6 7JP	Tel: 07737 249461 Email: angela_needham@homeopathy-soh.org
Newsletter:	Hilary Byers, 170 Victoria Avenue, Hull HU5 3DY	Tel: 445747 Email: hilary@amskaya.karoo.co.uk
Web:	www.hfoe.org.uk or www.foe.co.uk/hull	Email: jolliffe@jolliffe.karoo.co.uk