



## DIARY DATES

### Mon 2 May, 12 noon

HFoE stall at Pickering Road, Community Orchard

### Tues 3 May 7pm

HFoE meeting at Vintage Café, Chanterlands Avenue HU5 3TP

7pm informal, 7.30pm business

### Tues 7 June 7pm

HFoE meeting at Vintage Café, Chanterlands Avenue HU5 3TP

7pm informal, 7.30pm business

### Sat 2 July

Summer event in Pearson Park with stalls - 12-7pm

### Sun 3 and Sun 10 July

Open gardens; HFoE stall in Wildlife Garden, Pearson Park

### Tues 2 August 7pm

HFoE meeting at Vintage Café, Chanterlands Avenue HU5 3TP

7pm informal, 7.30pm business

SEE OTHER DATES INSIDE...

## Celebrate May Day!



**Pickering Road Community Orchard will celebrate May Day on Monday, 2 May, at the orchard off Cranberry Way, Pickering Road, starting at 12 noon.**

As well as the usual dancing round the maypole, there will be stalls by other Green Groups. There will be some refreshments and you are welcome to bring a picnic. Please park on Pickering Road. The trees should be looking suitably invigorated, as we have been doing lots of pruning over the winter. If your group want to have a stall contact Yvette before the day on [ygrindley@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ygrindley@yahoo.co.uk) or 07922 266749.

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# ECO Chit Chat

## **Wilson Bed, Alfred Gelder Street**

The Council have confirmed that the bed will be available again for food growing and that they can supply plants. Jenny has sent a list of suitable plants to Simon Race and we are waiting to hear when they will be available. We'll inform the regulars, but get in touch if you'd like to be involved.

Contact Jenny Parsons, 01482 845356.

## **Living with fracking**

Short film by two Rydale residents who visited Pennsylvania following in the footsteps of their MP, who returned from a fact finding tour and reported that he was reassured that fracking wouldn't impact negatively in Rydale. Jo and Steve White visited some of the same people who Kevin Hollinrake talked to and were given a very different picture of environmental damage and industrialised countryside. Thurs 26th May, 7pm at The Art Centre, Pocklington; free, donation welcome.

**A coach trip to Pickering** is being organised by NCWW2MT for Saturday 2 July. Depart at 8.00 am from Ferensway; arrive back at approximately 8.30 pm. There is lots going on. A short tour of the town centre by members of Pickering and District Civic Society will enable us to ask questions about their flood protection measures (reported in last issue of ECO). Also there are steam trains on the North York Moors Railway; a 1960s event (see whether those miniskirts and flairs still fit!); and an open air market.

Fare £15 per person. Advance booking essential; please contact Alan Canvess as soon as possible to reserve places (pay later): Alan@Canvess.karoo.co.uk or 01482 446320; or Hilary (contact details back page).



Tending the Wilson Garden

## **Cornucopia Festival**

Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> to Sun 25<sup>th</sup> September at Burton Constable Hall. Acts include Andy Fairweather Low, Demon Barbers XL, Aynsley Lister, Jon Palmer Acoustic Band, Babajack and more. Get your tickets for a weekend full of music, green stalls, veggie and non-veggie food, circus, carnival, arts, crafts, fun, comedy, theatre and so much more. <http://www.cornucopiafestival.co.uk>

## **West Hull Community Radio**

Greg Harman is looking for people from charities or community groups to come on his weekly Community Show on West Hull FM as a guest. You get a **full hour** to chat about your work, listen to some favourite tracks of music and tell people all over Hull about your organisation and your achievements. You can also tell them how to contact you and get involved.

Email: [greg@recyclingunlimited.org.uk](mailto:greg@recyclingunlimited.org.uk) or call on 01482 343726.

## **Hull Friends of the Earth AGM**

- ▶ This year, at our AGM on 5 April, we said many thanks to David who was stepping down as Treasurer. He has done a great job for many years, keeping our books straight. He will be continuing in his valuable work with maintaining the wildlife plot in Newland allotments, looking after Sculcoates cemetery and planting alongside the Barmston Drain, though I know he would appreciate offers of help, through Hull FoE.
- ▶ We are very grateful to Karen Woods who has offered to take over as Treasurer.
- ▶ Most years our expenditure and income balance out reasonably well, but in 2015/16 income for the year was £833 while expenditure was £1827.49. Room hire for talks (£252) and the cost of sending people

to events (£655) has increased greatly over last year and the excess expenditure (£994) is not sustainable. On the other hand, it does indicate that we have got more involved in regional, national and even international activities with Friends of the Earth.

- ▶ Karen suggested that we needed a Financial Plan with a budget that was related to our core activities. Others suggested that we need to consider ways of generating income as well as limiting expenditure. It was agreed that we would email ideas to Karen and she would collate them for discussion at the next meeting.
- ▶ Takings at the Green Fair last November were down. It seems to be difficult to persuade people to book

stalls when we hold it in East Hull, so we are looking for a new venue.

- ▶ Membership is steady at 61. Angela will have included a reminder with this newsletter to all those who haven't paid their subs (due at the beginning of April). See details of where to send them on the back of this newsletter. Please take out a Standing Order if you can, as it saves you from forgetting and us admin costs. You would be able to end or change it anytime you like.
- ▶ We are very pleased to have welcomed several new people to our meetings this year and appreciate your involvement. People seem to like our comfortable meeting place in Vintage Café.

# Has EU fish management achieved stock recovery?

by Dr Colin Bannister

Buckland lecture 28 January, 2016. Hull University: Fisheries Management

## The Buckland Foundation supports a public lecture which is given at a few locations every year.

Dr Bannister has a hands-on scientific background in fisheries management, and has worked in MAFF and its successor organisation CEFAS and in EU policy negotiations since the 1960s. The lecture was detailed, and given mainly to an audience who had expertise in the area. This is a summary as I understood it as a layman, so there may be errors or omissions.

The lecture was principally concerned with herring and cod stocks in the North Sea, and how well the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) is achieving recovery.

## How are fish stocks measured?

Maximum Sustainable Yield. Should we be considering the weight of the catch or numbers of fish? The changing age structure means that as fish stocks have diminished, efforts to maintain the weight of the catch has resulted in an increasing number of smaller and less mature fish being taken. This has hastened the demise of fish stocks and reduction in the Spawning Biomass.

**The Spawning Biomass** is the number of fish able to spawn. Management is by measuring against three limits: a safe level where stocks will not decrease; a caution limit where stocks are decreasing but remain recoverable; and a danger level where numbers are so low that recovery of the fishery is unlikely.

The basic principle is "Don't fish too hard on immature fish!"

## Controls

ICES (International Council for the Exploration of the Sea) produces data that is generally agreed, but there are differences in the viewpoints of different countries and fisheries. This is made more complex as there are tiers of government controls eg EU and individual countries to reach an agreement.

Controls that have been used are: quota of various types; limiting the days at sea; mesh size; closed areas; and closed seasons. There has been a variable degree of success and regulatory bodies seem poor at engaging with fishers.

## History of CFP and fish stocks

► **1970-1978** CFP established as North Sea herring stocks collapse. UN apply 200 mile fishing limits based on distance from coasts, with consequent issues for congested areas like the North Sea.

► **1970-1990s** Fishing operations in near waters expanded and then overfished. The precautionary approach introduced to halt decline by 2015.

► **2001-2015** Panic as North Sea cod collapses. ICES and EU focus on Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) and this ultimately led to reform of CFP.

## CASE STUDIES

### NORTH SEA HERRING

From 1960 the fishing rate of herring increased to a level of 75%. In 1976 the EU closed North Sea fishing and subsequently there has been some recovery. A particular issue is the nature of herring eggs, which are sticky, leading to agglomeration and adherence to the seabed gravel. Trawling displaces the eggs, leading to loss of new fish.

### NORTH SEA COD

North West and North East Atlantic have different climate changes (see below, page 4). In 2001 there was a crisis in cod stocks due to the fishing rate being too high; immature fish made up 80% of the catch. This was due to the small mesh size of the nets and the levels fell below the "Danger level" limit

## Current situation

MSYs for most stocks required an 80% reduction for most species.

Conservation groups see it as a management failure; ministers face the challenge of presenting controls to hostile fishers.

Options of what can be done are: decrease TAC (Total Allowable Catch), more managed control of mesh sizes, management of by-catch species, and closing spawnin areas. (However, a previous attempt to close a herring spawning ground for a year resulted in a rush to fish there once it reopened, so that much of the benefit was wiped out.)

Fishing rate targets is a better control than using mass of fish.

Fishermen tend to exaggerate stocks, saying there are plenty of fish where they go to fish (or else they would not be fishing there!); some reports get distorted.

*continued on page 4*

## Has EU fish management achieved stock recovery?

continued from page 3

Fishing rates are now reducing from 70% to around 35%; the spawning biomass is still on the danger limit but rising very slightly.

## Biological influences

The biology of the seas is complex. For example, as the North Sea gets warmer, the species of plankton is changing. Plankton that prefer warmer water are smaller and so provide less nutrition to the fish. Importantly these plankton also peak at a different time and are not available when newly hatched fish need them. The larger plankton are in the north (and north west Atlantic in particular) and fish species follow the preferred food.

## Environmental influences

The North Atlantic Oscillation is causing warming on the northeast Atlantic (EU/North Sea side) and cooling on the northwest. Both effects could decrease cod stocks.

Fluctuation is causing more stormy weather leading to wind stress that disrupts fish regeneration.

## Summing up

- ▶ Overall, the science of fish and biology of the fisheries is complex.
- ▶ There is a risk that government cuts will stop the monitoring programmes.
- ▶ Ecological changes are complex and are likely to continue.
- ▶ Fisheries management has improved but with limited success.
- ▶ There is concern that if signs of recovery do occur there will be pressure from fishers to increase catches.
- ▶ Is it possible to give fishermen ownership of the fisheries? Inland fisheries seemed to do this successfully.

**Postscript:** Marinet reminds us that that the decline in fish stocks over the years due to overfishing has been huge. Proper management of fish stocks has great potential both ecologically and financially.

More information (March blogs are particularly pertinent) at [www.marinet.org.uk](http://www.marinet.org.uk)

Ian Jolliffe

# Gas rig at West Newton Well site was not certified

A Health & Safety Investigation has revealed that the rig used at Rathlin Energy's well site in Holderness was operating without a valid Declaration of Conformity

The rig is owned by infamous fracking company Cuadrilla Resources and was used to frack Preese Hall well near Blackpool, causing the 2011 earthquakes that lead to the UK wide fracking moratorium.

In October 2014 a worker on the West Newton well site was seen climbing the rig at height without a safety harness. A protector camped at the site and a local resident witnessed the incident and sent video footage to the Health & Safety Executive (HSE).

The HSE took the matter so seriously they conducted a thorough investigation, the results of which have now been made public. They concluded that the video footage was not of good enough quality to determine for definite whether or not the worker was connected to fall arrest equipment.

However the investigation discovered that the rig is owned by fracking company Cuadrilla, was imported in 2010, and was never certified for use in the UK.

The report states that Marriott Drilling (who lease the rig), "claimed to have done a lot of 'soul searching' since the complaint and thoroughly reviewed the issue of safe working up the rig mast." and as a result made design improvements to the rig.

A Freedom of Information request revealed the rig had been deployed to numerous Cuadrilla sites, including Preese Hall near Blackpool in 2011.

**Frack Free East Yorkshire** says: We were promised gold standard regulation with no risk. What we got was 19 breaches of EA permit in 6 months, an emergency well shutdown, noxious smells for weeks on end, and a Cuadrilla fracking rig not even certified for use in the UK—but it was half a decade before anybody noticed. This is fundamental stuff. And now the regulators are being cut to the bone—how will they cope with hundreds of new gas wells spreading across our countryside like a pox?

*Research by No Drill No Spill & Communities of Holderness Against On-Shore Drilling—concerned local residents in the West Newton area.*

*For info on this and other breaches of regulations see [www.frackfreeeastyorkshire.com/incidents](http://www.frackfreeeastyorkshire.com/incidents)*

# Deforestation (PART 2) and palm oil

Rohan Lewis

***In the previous ECO we looked at the effect of illegal logging on deforestation. But what about forests being cleared because other crops are more profitable? This time we look at the effects of the palm oil industry.***

On your next weekly shopping trip to the supermarket of your choice, try the following EXPERIMENT.

- ▶ Stand facing the shelves bearing the prepacked, sliced loaves of bread: there are usually lots of sizes, shapes and varieties to choose from.
- ▶ Take a loaf from the left hand end of the top shelf and examine the list of ingredients. Does it contain palm oil? It does?
- ▶ Well, take a loaf of the next type of bread to the right and look at that.
- ▶ Continue thus, working from left to right and top to bottom, until you find a loaf which does **not** contain palm oil.

## **How long did this take?**

Since the British wholesale baking industry decreed, some 50 years ago, that bread should henceforth contain vegetable fat, it is not surprising that it has turned to the West African Oil Palm, *Elaeis guineensis*, one acre of which yields annually as much oil as six acres of oilseed rape, or ten of soya beans. Nor that the governments of the Asian tropics should have eagerly traded the meagre income from the occasional tourist come to ogle an Orang-Utan in their pristine rainforests for a regular, solid slice of the profits from the European daily bread (and cake, and biscuit...) Besides, it's not really deforestation, since oil palms are still trees... aren't they?

The down side to this policy was spectacularly demonstrated in Indonesia in 2015, when large areas of low-lying peat swamp, which had dried out after being deforested some years earlier and begun conversion to oil



palm plantations, caught fire as disenfranchised local communities attempted to burn off small patches of scrub in order to eke out a living from their own agriculture. The ensuing conflagration, which can be seen

in video footage on the Greenpeace website, was estimated to be putting as much CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere on a daily basis as the whole of the USA.

In contrast to timber, the palm oil processing and supply chain is dominated by a fairly small number of large companies, and already some of these had in 2004 set up a voluntary self-certification scheme, ie buying only from growers with a "no-further-deforestation" commitment, known as the Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO).

Food manufacturers purchasing from these companies often label this as "sustainable palm", a term you may have noticed when performing the EXPERIMENT. Indonesian smogs and other adverse events have stimulated some soul-searching in the industry, and currently around 96% of palm oil in the market is thought to be under a commitment to zero palm oil-related deforestation. CDP's data shows that 76% of companies include RSPO certification as a criterion for meeting this commitment—but since only 20% of the palm oil traded worldwide is certified at present, they have a long way to go.

***Anyone for home baking?*** Preferably with butter—which might, incidentally,

help to revive the moribund UK dairy industry.

## **Addressing deforestation in the 21<sup>st</sup> century**

Tropical deforestation accounts for 8% of anthropogenic carbon emissions, and forest degradation (removal of valuable timber and consequent damage to biodiversity) for an estimated further 8-14%. Conversely, there is general consensus in the forest carbon literature that many recovering and primary forests can absorb an average of 2 tons of carbon per hectare, per year; and on this basis, if all 781 million hectares of degraded tropical forests were fully protected and thus enabled to regenerate, they would, over the 35 years to 2050, reduce atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations by 25 parts per million.

With these facts in mind, the United Nations in 2005 began development of their program "Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation" (REDD). In their own words ([www.un-redd.org/aboutredd](http://www.un-redd.org/aboutredd)):

"Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) is an effort to create a financial value for the carbon stored in forests, offering incentives for developing countries to reduce emissions from forested lands and invest in low-carbon paths to sustainable development. "REDD+" goes beyond deforestation and forest degradation, and includes the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks."

*continued on page 6*

# Stop TTIP

Opposition to TTIP is increasing in Europe; nearly 3.5m people have signed a petition to the European Commission. But above all, we have to watch out for the EU-Canada trade agreement CETA, which is most likely to be put to vote in the European Parliament later this year. Being the first bilateral trade agreement the EU concluded with a G7 economy, it is meant to serve as a blueprint for future deals – especially for TTIP.

In the United Kingdom, a new campaign “Business Against TTIP” has been launched to defend the interests of small and medium sized enterprises.

## Deforestation and Palm Oil

*continued from page 5*

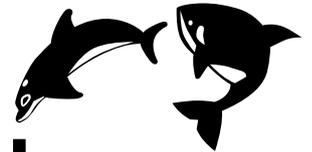
Article 5 of the Paris agreement, which concluded the recent COP21 talks, requires that signatories “should conserve forests including through results-based payments”, thus clearing the way for developing countries to use REDD (which is funded almost entirely by the EU, Norway and Japan), and encourage private investment in REDD+. That there is goodwill towards forests goodwill towards forests in at least some parts of the private sector is not in doubt. At the IF conference in November, the Sustainable Development Manager for one major UK retailer told us that he had already achieved 95% RSPO certification on the company’s palm oil supply, and 80% FSC certification on wood and paper; another, grappling with sustainably sourcing viscose, rayon and lycel (all wood products) for her clothing lines recorded sorrowfully “customers *care*, but they won’t *pay*”. As the PCFISU report soberly puts it:

“A ton of CO<sub>2</sub>e<sup>†</sup> would need a price of US\$25-40 to outbid timber revenues; and over US\$100 to out-price palm oil. With the average price for forest carbon credits in the voluntary market at c.US\$7-8, there will clearly need to be a very large change in the valuation of and price paid for carbon, or other forests services, before standing forests can withstand unconstrained market forces.”

Now, are you sure you won’t have a home-made butter scone?

**Rohan Lewis**

.....  
† is the weight of carbon which, if burnt, would yield a ton of carbon dioxide



# Marine and fishy news

## The Holderness Inshore Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ)

Holderness Inshore MCZ covers an area of approximately 309km<sup>2</sup> and was established in January 2016. The site is located north of the Humber estuary mouth and includes the sea bed, the intertidal shores and Spurn Head as a unique geological feature. Specific features within this area are protected and, where necessary, regulators will manage marine activities.

For more information about the importance of the site see <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-4527>

## Plastics challenge from Marine Conservation Society

Could you give up single use plastics for a day, a week, or for the full month of June?

The challenge to you is to stop using single use plastics [bottles, food trays, wrappers, bags etc] for as long as you can – and get your friends and family to sponsor your efforts. Help highlight how much we overuse plastics, and encourage people to avoid single use packaging where they can.

**Register on [www.mcsuk.org/plasticchallenge](http://www.mcsuk.org/plasticchallenge)**

Meanwhile a group of people have come up with the idea for SeaVax, a solar-powered, wind-driven ship that sucks up plastic but has special sensors to protect marine life. Avaaz is trying to crowdfund the upscaling from a model to the real thing. <http://ecowatch.com/2016/02/19/seavax-vacuum-ocean-plastic/>

However, experts warn that there are dangers for marine life that cannot swim away. Technology fixes work best upstream, clearing rubbish before it reaches the oceans. And of course there is no substitute for preventing the stuff getting into water in the first place.

## Like having your own fishmonger in your pocket...

If you want to eat fish, the new **Good Fish Guide** app (free on both iPhone and Android) is a great catch to make sure the fish you buy comes from sustainable stocks.

The app has all the answers right at your finger tips. Whilst looking at fish on the counter you can, with a few taps and swipes, be sure your fish supper is as sustainable as possible.

Not only that, you can browse seasonal seafood recipes from top chefs and celebrities, there’s a size guide to help you spot fish that are being sold below the size at which they breed, and you can find restaurants with great sustainable credentials.



Download  
your free apps  
for Android and  
iPhone

<http://www.goodfishguide.org/information/Mobile+App>

# Hullcoin—clever tech, simple idea

Lots of people do good things for their community every day. Kaini Industries is set to trial the use of a digital credit system that will reward positive social action in Hull's communities in a way that is both unique and innovative, through the use of 'Hullcoin'.

Hullcoin makes receiving and spending credits easy. It authorises and tracks the use of those credits automatically.

We are looking for community-based groups who will provide members of the public with the chance to do some positive work in their community in line with the organisations' goals and who will take part in rewarding them with Hullcoin. HC can then be redeemed at a number of local retailers, in a similar way to a local currency: keeping the value within the communities that generate it.

If you might be interested in taking part in this original project then please contact: Thomas Cowen

email: [tcowen@hull-coin.org](mailto:tcowen@hull-coin.org)

## Forwards not backwards on climate! Join the demo

### LEEDS CLIMATE ACTION

and others in Yorkshire will be holding a '**Forwards not Backwards on Climate**' demonstration on **Saturday 7 May**. The demonstration will be connecting with a demonstration in London on 8 May to mark the anniversary of the 2015 election and the dismantling of climate policies since then—such as:

- ▶ Slashing subsidies to renewables while increasing subsidies to fossil fuels
- ▶ Blocking planning permission for onshore wind while overriding objections to fracking
- ▶ Continued expansion of aviation and road-building
- ▶ Cuts in funding for insulation

**Assemble in City Square (outside Leeds train station) 12pm. Please wear red or green or both. Might involve walking backwards!**

#### **Read more on:**

<http://www.campaigncc.org/goingbackwards> and

<https://www.facebook.com/events/815462775254319/>



David and Stepney schoolchildren planting trees on Barmston Drain. (See Hull FoE AGM, page 2)



Harvest Feast-ival last year. (See page 9)



Friends of Pearson Park learn all about trees with Tim Beckley (see Friends of Pearson Park, page 10)

# Rewilding a river

To be a bit more personal about rewilding, I was especially struck by the report of this small trust in London and what it has done for one previously filthy little river. Not maybe an impossible task for Hull, even if we just took on a drain rather than the River Hull herself.

In 1805, the river Wandle, which flows through south London, was described as “the hardest worked river for its size in the world.” It was an urban sewer, poisoned by bleach and dyes from the 90 mills along its length. It was later straightened and canalised to speed water away from homes and businesses.

But in this urban rewilding project, the Wandle Trust is restoring the river to its former glory as a beautiful chalk stream. Almost all the world’s chalk streams are found in England. They are rare and threatened habitats.

The Trust has been putting back features that harboured life in the river, which had been pulled out by overzealous engineers. It runs community cleanups every month, enlisting local people to remove the junk dumped in the water. It has

been creating passages through the weirs to enable eels to migrate upstream. Children in local schools have been raising trout to restock the river.

The children’s involvement has encouraged them to see the Wandle as part of their landscape and to start playing in it once more. The project is rewilding children as well as the natural world. And it provides a valuable wildlife corridor right into the heart of the city.

[www.wandletrust.org](http://www.wandletrust.org)

**Angela Needham**

**Rewilding Britain** is a charity registered in England and Wales (Charity no. 1159373), and Scotland (Charity no. SC045685) Registered office: 1st Floor, The Printworks, 139 Clapham Road, London, SW9 0HP

*A useful blog from Countryside and Community Research Institute (CCRI)*

## Introducing natural flood management

This short but usefully illustrated article is highly recommended. In its opening paragraph Chris Short, co-lead for the Centre for the Study of Floods and Communities comments:

*“The Environment Agency felt that they had to state that people were more important than wildlife. Hopefully what follows will show that protecting one and enhancing the other can be on the same side of the coin.”*

He goes on to explain the importance of good soil structure especially higher up in the catchment area .

The illustrated article examines methods practised in an area of Stroud similar to those around Pickering which we looked at in the last issue.

He goes on to talk about steps which can be taken in centres of population, from the basic one of making sure people know who to inform if a culvert is blocked, to the development of water gardens and green roofs.

Finally he notes that catchment management combined with flood protection would benefit lives, businesses and wildlife.

He closes with the comment that we need to work with nature rather than seeing it as something separate “something David Cameron seems to overlook in his ‘epiphany’ with two water voles.”

[www.ccri.ac.uk/introducing-natural-flood-management-protecting-people-and-enhancing/wildlife/](http://www.ccri.ac.uk/introducing-natural-flood-management-protecting-people-and-enhancing/wildlife/)

**Angela Needham**

## ENERGY NEWS

**The Renewable Energy Locator** is an interactive website where you can explore how different types of renewable energy are doing in different areas of England and Wales. It’s searchable by postcode, region, county, and local authority. East Riding generates 3rd highest amount of renewable energy out of 348 Local Authority areas, with 257 MW generated by onshore wind out of a renewables total of 377MW

<http://renewablelocator.green-alliance.org.uk>

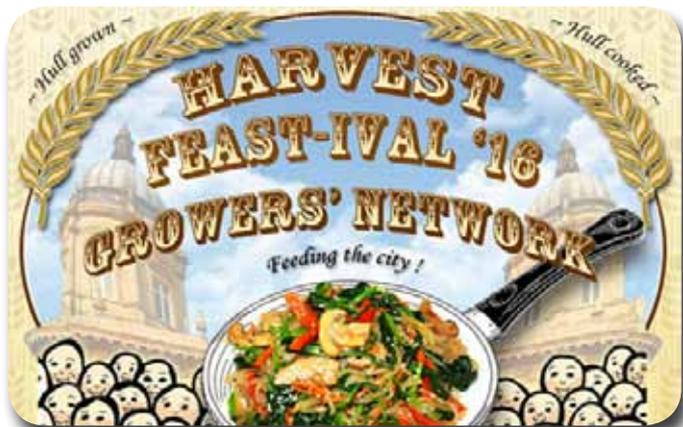
**Ecotricity** has cut gas prices by 7%, more than any other suppliers. They are planning to start making their own gas, produced by anaerobic digestion of grass from marginal land previously used for grazing. They guarantee never to source gas from fracking.

[www.ecotricity.co.uk/our-green-energy/green-gas](http://www.ecotricity.co.uk/our-green-energy/green-gas)

**SuperHomes** is a rapidly expanding network of 200 energy aware households. All have refurbished their old homes to the highest standards of energy efficiency. Eco friendly, sustainable, low energy and low carbon – the refurbished houses are least 60% less reliant on fossil fuels. We can learn from them. Richard’s house in Inglemire Lane Hull is one of them.

SuperHomes news update: <http://www.superhomes.org.uk/newsmar2016>

# Food Growers Network



Building on the success of last year's Hull Harvest Feast-ival in October, the second annual event is already being planned! The 'Food Growers Network' is being launched on 28 April to build on the connections made between individuals and local organisations at the 2015 event. There are going to be activities happening throughout the year.

*The Growers' Network aims to:*

- ▶ Share our skills, resources and labour across different sites, gardens and community kitchens (through the mechanism

of timebanking) to increase the amount of local produce being grown and cooked.

- ▶ Inspire more people to grow food, get outdoors, exercise and meet people.
- ▶ Support people to use locally grown produce to cook cheap, healthy meals.
- ▶ Plan as a city what we grow and how we share surplus produce. For example to supplement non-perishable items supplied by food banks.
- ▶ Facilitate regular food growing skills exchange sessions and cook and share community meals.

**The launch event will be taking place at 6:30—8:30 pm on Thursday 28 April at the Punch Hotel, Queen Victoria Square, Carr Lane, Hull, HU1 3RA.** There will be guest speakers talking about local food-related projects. Please bring along food to share. We look forward to seeing you there!

The Feast-ival Team

**CONTACT**

EMAIL : [hello@hullharvestfeast-ival.org.uk](mailto:hello@hullharvestfeast-ival.org.uk)

WEB: [www.hullharvestfeast-ival.org.uk](http://www.hullharvestfeast-ival.org.uk)

## Transition Hull and Hull Permaculture update

### February

Our February 2016 meeting focused on permaculture and its relation to transition and involved some group work.

A number of short films on permaculture were shown during the evening, and can be viewed on the web.

Just go to YouTube and search for **Living with the Land** to bring up a series of short films made in 2015.

See for example **Living with the Land - Part 3: Farming with Nature**, a great short with Rebecca Hoskin of 'Farm for the Future' fame, to find out about *mob grazing*, *holistic plan grazing* and protecting wildlife on the farm.

### March

In March the **Ten Easy Steps to a Greener Lifestyle** panel fielded a number of questions, and was able to draw on some expertise in the audience. It was generally agreed that moving to Ecotricity for your electricity and gas supply was a good move, with their investment in renewables and green gas.

Using local BioD cleaning products was good for the environment, or a number of traditional cleaning products such as vinegar and borax could be used.

There was a lot of discussion of alternatives to the big banks, with Hull and East Yorkshire Credit Union, Triodos Bank, Ecology Building Society, Charity Bank, Shared Interest and Lend with Care all getting a mention.

Further topics included PV solar and iboost immersion devices, electric vehicles, public transport including driverless minibuses for rural areas, car share and lift share.

### Constable Street Field

Transition Hull continues to support Friends of Constable Street Field, which put on a Scarecrow Competition in the Easter Holidays. Despite the awful weather and the need to relocate from the field to Boulevard Village Hall, there were 5 excellent scarecrows and everyone went away with a prize.

### Our AGM

At the AGM in April it was agreed that the merger of Transition Hull and the Hull Permaculture Network should result in a change of name, and the name which has been chosen is **Transition and Permaculture Hull**.

We identified the areas which will need to be addressed as a result of the merger. We hope to adopt the existing transition constitution for the merged body and to continue with the existing Cooperative community bank account. We will need a new logo and will review our website and social media provision in due course.

### Funding

Our funding bid to Grassroots Endowment/Two Ridings Community Foundation was successful and will cover our major outgoings for a further year, such as public liability insurance and room hire.

Jenny Parsons

Treasurer, Transition Hull

<http://www.transitionhull.co.uk/>

01482 845356

# LOCAL GREEN GROUPS

## Lots of 'Friendly' Green Groups news this time!



### Friends of Spring Bank Cemetery

have set up to share their appreciation of the wildlife value and fascinating heritage of monuments in this historic cemetery, and defend it from rubbish dumping. If you would like more information and to take part in activities, whether historical research or litter-picking, contact John Scotney:

john.scotney@talk21.com or 01482 492822.



### Friends of Constable Street Field

are converting a former builders' compound, which occupies part of the field, into a community allotment. There will be regular volunteering sessions every Saturday at 12 noon. **Come along and lend a hand** when you can; tools will be provided, but you might want to bring your own gloves, and wear boots as it may be muddy. Lausanne is happy for anyone interested to give her a ring and find out what the main tasks will be on any particular week, on 07816 141169. Constable Street is HU3 3DF.

John Pickles did some excellent **scale drawings** for the Constable Street allotment project, to use for planning and grant applications (the cost forming part of the grant). He is happy to do the same for other community growing projects.

Contact on pickjohns@gmail.com



**Salad Course** This new course will cover all aspects of fruit and veg growing throughout the Spring, also including flowers to attract wildlife and enhance biodiversity. There will be field trips to a nearby community allotment, with practical sessions in a secure and friendly environment, with disabled access, as well as a visit to a well-established community garden.

11 weekly sessions starting Wed 30 April, 10.00 am - 12.00, Boulevard Village Hall.

Contact Lausanne on 07816 141169.



**Friends of Pearson Park** are organising a **tree walk** in the park on Thursday 26 May; meet 2pm at the Conservatory. Tim Beckley, the Urban Forestry Officer will show us the trees in their early summer splendour; last year's autumn visit was very popular.



### The Rainbow Community Garden

in North Hull is looking for more volunteers to help grow fruit and vegetables for the local community and to stage events. The Rainbow Garden is situated at the end of Levisham Close, off Endike Lane near the junction with Hall Road. Contact Jeannie Webster on 07504 292378.



**Community Allotments:** Environmental & Management Solutions is a registered charity which works with local residents, community groups and businesses to alleviate food and fuel poverty on the north and south bank of the Humber. We currently run 4 successful community allotment sites in Hull and are exploring the possibility of developing more sites around the city as part of our Community Allotment project.

Following the model of our current community allotment sites, this project would aim to turn unused pieces of land into small-scale, secure allotment sites which would then be offered to residents within walking distance of the site, rent-free. We would offer practical support and advice to help new growers get started, and would facilitate group meetings to give residents the opportunity to grow their own produce, enjoy a healthy lifestyle and work together with other growers to make their site a valuable resource within their community.

We would be very grateful if you could share your opinions and suggestions on this project by completing the following **short survey** (should take approx 2-3mins)

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/23XJ39J>

Andy Steele, Community Engagement Co-ordinator



### Food4Hull Open Meetings

These are informal gatherings for anyone interested in local sustainable food and growing.

Come and have a pint of Deuchars with us! We regularly meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of every month at the Olde White Harte pub on Silver Street HU1 1JG from 7pm.

Hilary Hamer, Food4Hull, 07939 569347

## news and events



### Vintage Makery Do Craft Fair

Sat 7 May 1-3pm, St Ninian's Church, Chanterlands Avenue. *20p or a tin of food on the door.* Run by our hosts at Vintage Café.

**ScrapStore** membership is now free. As a member of ScrapStore you will have instant access to scrap materials, art materials, circus and play equipment hire, ideas library and art and craft workshops. Our materials change constantly but we ensure that we always have paper, felt, cardboard, vinyl, sticky backed plastic, tape, foam, plastics, fabric, tubing and much more!

You never know what new things we might have from week to week, and this makes the ScrapStore worth visiting regularly. Scrapstore is at the Old School, Dairycoates Ave, Hull HU3 5DB Phone:01482 328750. Open Tues, Wed, Thur, 10am-2pm; Sat 10am-1pm.



**Eco Sapien** is an educational organisation created to promote the importance of biodiversity and explore its relevance to our everyday lives. Their website offers a range of resources including videos, information packs, infographics and much more. One of their recent videos showcased an example of local good practice: Natural England's Chris McGregor was interviewed to explain how to create habitat using green hay, highlighting work carried out at Leven Carrs. To watch this video and to browse through Eco Sapien's other resources, visit [www.ecosapien.org](http://www.ecosapien.org).

The Woodland Trust—Free Trees For Communities And Schools



**The Woodland Trust** have over 4,000 free tree packs to give away to schools, community and youth groups. To apply for a free tree pack you must be a not-for-profit group, have permission to plant on a public site and involve the community.

**Next deadline 7 September 2016**

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/in-your-community/>

## Hull 2017 Creative Communities Programme

Grants ranging from £300 to £10,000 are available for arts and cultural projects that will become part of Hull's UK City of Culture year in 2017.

The Creative Communities Programme team will select projects that are creative at heart, transformational in effect, and celebrate arts and culture. Hull 2017 wants to fund ideas that release the original voices and defiant spirit of the city; projects that connect Hull's communities, look to the future and create experiences and memories.

All projects will be assessed against four key aims.

They must:

- ▶ celebrate arts and culture;
- ▶ be open to all;
- ▶ engage people and communities in Hull;
- ▶ and go beyond the every day.

**Applications for the Hull 2017 Creative Communities Programme are now open until Monday 16 May 2016.**

Visit the Creative Communities website, and find out more:

<http://www.hull2017.co.uk/guides/creative-communities-programme/>



### Beverley Green Drinks

are back at the usual venue, The Green Dragon, Saturday Market, Beverley. 6.30/7.00pm on 13th each month.

<http://www.greendrinks.org/Yorkshire/Beverley>



### Hull Green Drinks

meets on the 19th of the month at the Admiral of the Humber in Hull City Centre starting at 7pm.

<http://www.greendrinks.org/Humberside/Kingston%20upon%20Hull>

## Hull FoE subs were 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—what good value!

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





# Hull Friends of the Earth

## HULL FOE MEMBERSHIP

I wish to become a member of Hull FoE <input type="checkbox"/> I wish to renew my Hull FoE membership <input type="checkbox"/>		<b>Payment</b> <b>Please note: subs are due by 1 April each year</b>	
<b>Name</b> (Mr/Mrs/Ms)		I enclose:	
<b>Address</b>		Membership or subscription fee (£5 waged, £2 unwaged)	£
		Donation	£
<b>Postcode</b>		<b>Total</b>	£
<b>Telephone</b>		<i>Please make cheques payable to:  <b>Hull Friends of the Earth</b>, and send to the Membership Secretary (address below)</i>	
<b>Email</b>			
<b>I WANT TO PAY BY STANDING ORDER</b> <input type="checkbox"/> We encourage you to pay your subscription by annual Standing Order. This prevents you from forgetting to pay and saves us sending reminders. But because of problems with fraud we are no longer printing the form here. Please contact Angela ( <i>details below</i> ) if you want to pay by Standing Order.			
We will use the contact details you have provided to keep you up to date on our campaigns and how you can help us. If you'd rather NOT receive this information from us, please tick here <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>How do you want to get ECO?</b> ▶ by email (in colour)? <input type="checkbox"/> ▶ in print by post? <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Tick either, or both</i>	<b>We welcome your donations!</b> Many of our members are very generous and give us a donation on top of their membership fee; if you can spare a bit extra we really appreciate it. It all helps our campaigning efforts and to keep you informed through ECO ( <i>see below...</i> )	
<b>Subs were due by 5 April 2016. Pay now and you will get them at this year's rate!</b> If you are a national Friends of the Earth member you do need to pay separately to be a Local Group member. Subs remain at £2 unwaged and £5 waged. And if you are inclined to forget, please take out a Standing Order ( <i>see above</i> ).			

We are also on Facebook. To get to it:

[www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)

Register - if you haven't already, and then go to the box at the top called "search for people, places and things".

Just type in "Hull Friends of the Earth" and you are off!

It will tell you how to get accepted into the group (Lee-Ann is the owner of the site).

Alternatively, existing "friends" on Facebook can invite you to join.

## SHARE YOUR NEWS?

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

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

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

### HULL FRIENDS OF THE EARTH: CONTACTS

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