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

www.hfoe.org.uk

January 2018 Issue 60

DIARY DATES

Tues 6 February 7pm

HFoE meeting at Vintage Café Chanterlands Avenue HU5 3TP

Tues 6 March 7pm

HFoE meeting at Vintage Café Chanterlands Avenue HU5 3TP



Tues 3 April 7pm HFoE AGM at Centre 88, Saner Street, HU3 2TR

All welcome!
Subs are due 3 April
Deadline for next ECO

Tues 1 May 7pm

HFoE meeting at Vintage Café Chanterlands Avenue HU5 3TP

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Port is a haven for bees

https://act.friendsoftheearth.uk/act/support-tougher-restrictions-bee-harming-pesticides



Vegetation on the port can provide forage for bees

рното: Hilary Byers

The decline of bees represents a major loss in biodiversity. Bees play a vital role in pollinating food crops. Approximately a third of our human diet is directly dependent on bees, making them central to our existence.

In 2013 Friends of the Earth co-hosted a Bee Summit which was the first step towards the government committing to publish a 'Bee Action Plan'. Since then the National Pollinator Strategy has emerged which advocates government working alongside farming, corporate interests, environmental and advocacy groups to promote bee friendly initiatives and policies.

Despite this positive progress, bee populations are still facing pressure from a number of fronts including decreases in the availability of habitats, climate change, pests and diseases and pesticide use.

At the national level the Friends of the Earth **Bee Cause Campaign** is continuing to put pressure on government to place tougher restrictions on pesticides and calling for a full and permanent ban on harming neonicotinoids. To date over 31,000 people have signed a petition to be submitted to Environment Secretary Michael Gove — a further 9,000 signatures are still needed. So we are urging local members and supporters to go to: https://act.friendsoftheearth. uk/act/support-tougher-restrictionsbee-harming-pesticides and add their support.

There are also lots of practical things that individual members can do to support bees including gardening for bees and taking part in the **Great British Bee count between 17 May and 30 June 2018**. To sign up go to: https://act.friendsoftheearth.uk/act/join-great-british-bee-count-2018

I have recently agreed to lead locally on the Bee Cause Campaign and am currently working with Associated British Ports. ABP owns and operates 21 ports in England, Scotland and Wales and handles approximately a quarter of the country's seaborne trade. ABP's

ECO Chit Chat

Make Your New Year Resolution: Think Global, Act Local

Think Global Act Local is a common principle that urges people to consider the health of the entire planet and take local action in their own communities and cities. Action can be as an individual or as part of a group and what better time to start than in the New Year.

As we all get back to our usual routines after Christmas celebrations we often think about our own health and wellbeing including improving diet, exercise and reining in our expenditure. These things can also be an opportunity to help the environment and here at Hull Friends of the Earth we have some suggestions for you:

- Walk, cycle or use public transport to get to work increasing your exercise and helping to reduce carbon emissions;
- Put on a jumper and turn your heating down one degree saving energy and reducing your fuel bills;
- Ensure that you recycle your Christmas waste;
- ▶ Declutter your home and donate any unwanted gifts to charity;
- ▶ Dig out some cookery books and find recipes to use up those Christmas left overs.

And last but not least come along to one of the local Friends of the Earth meetings to find out how you can get involved. Meetings take place on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7pm, Vintage Café, Chanterlands Avenue, Hull.

Karen Wood

Port is a haven for bees continued from page 1

Environmental Policy places a commitment on each port to be proactive in making efficient use of resources and minimising the impact of commercial operations on wildlife and the environment.

identify bee friendly sites within port land including wildlife areas alongside railway tracks, storage areas and landscaped areas near buildings. We are raising awareness about the importance of bees to the environment and working with staff

Karen Wood January, April, July and October. If you can't remember 'first Tuesday' just think **1st.** If I get it late I really can't promise to get it in the next ECO. And if the event

through the seasons.

is due to happen within 3 weeks after the deadline, it might be too late by the time people get their ECO. The key is to think ahead. Just before the

deadline think 'what have we got coming up over the next 4 months?' For instance, at the end of March think 'what are we doing in April, May, June and July?' I know that seems like a long time and it's not always possible to plan that far ahead, but on the whole you do get a better turn-out, especially from new people, if you can plan ahead. Even if you haven't 01482 445747

worked out all the details yet, if you can let me have a date, a bit about the event and your contact details, at least people can be getting it in their diaries/phones/ calendars etc and contact you if they want to know more nearer the time.

I prefer to get stuff by email. If that causes you a problem, ring me and we'll arrange something. Don't forget that as well as articles and news we also like to get photos, or drawings if you are gifted that way. It's a long time since we got any cartoons!

Hilary Byers, ECO Editor

hilary@amskaya.karoo.co.uk

Tuesday 3 April 2018 at 7pm At Centre 88 Saner Street (off

Hull Friends of the Earth

Anlaby Road near the flyover) HU3 2TR

Note the special venue and early start!

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

We'd love to meet you, especially if you've not been to our meetings before. Or why not come along first to an ordinary meeting at Vintage Café in February or March for a chat?

With the Council elections coming up on 3 May and all Hull Council seats being up for grabs, we want to make sure we can influence the decision makers.

Come along and have your say!

Subs are due for 2018 by 3 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. And if you are inclined to forget, please take out a Standing Order (see back page).

to introduce honey bees onto the port. So far work has included

developing the necessary health and safety and security

procedures for bee keeping on the site, consultation with

staff about siting of bees, a workshop about the bee keeping year and care of honey bees and the introduction of one hive.

During 2018 the plan is to work with staff to review the forage

available and develop a planting scheme to maximise feed

The project being developed includes working with staff to

Just send it!

People often tell me they are going to write something for ECO... and then nothing arrives! The deadline seems to confuse some people. So here is some advice:

You can send me stuff any time! Write it while it's fresh in your mind and send it to me straight away. I'll do my best to include it in the next ECO. If it just misses one it should make it into the next.

However, if you want to publicise a forthcoming event, deadlines do matter! The deadline is the last date by which you should get the information to me to be sure of it getting in the next ECO. Deadlines are always the first Tuesday in

Angela

We are very sad to report the death of our friend and Friend of the Earth, Angela Needham

Angela joined Hull FoE in 2013 shortly after coming to Hull, and straight away got stuck in helping to organise a litter clearance on the Humber foreshore She had noticed, when she had been out doing a bird survey, that storms had washed up a great deal of rubbish which would endanger wildlife. Here was someone who not only could see what needed to be done but also knew what was involved in organising it and was very willing to do her share and more. This, of course, immediately made her a very valuable member of the group.

I wasn't at all surprised to learn that she had been involved in the Women's Camp at Greenham Common. (I wish I'd asked her more about that period in her life). She was able to use her experience to teach techniques of non-violent direct action to people on the front line of the anti-fracking campaigns.

She was knowledgeable about so many things; bees, butterflies and most of all birds and very keen to share her knowledge.

 $And no one will be surprised that she also be came one of the {\it City} of {\it Culture volunteers}.$

Angela put so much energy into everything she did that it was easy to forget that she had very limited lung capacity, something that she readily told people was the result of smoking when she was young.

It is very typical that the last activity she was involved in with us, before she suffered a cardiac arrest on her way home, was helping and encouraging groups of young people with planting (in atrocious weather) aromatic plants down near the marina, as part of our Air Quality Campaign in which she had taken a leading part.

Angela tried valiantly to recover, with a great deal of dedicated care from staff at Castle Hill Hospital, but passed away peacefully on 8 December 2017.

Hilary

Lee-Ann said: "Angela was only with the group for a few years but her energy, experience and determination left a great impression on all who knew her. For those who never had the opportunity to meet her let me just say she was a lifelong campaigner for the highest and best ideals and fought tirelessly against the greatest threats to the world. Her campaigning reflected her love of animals, desire for peace, a safe place for all to live regardless of our differences and a healthy planet. She will be greatly missed."

Martin said: "Angela was an active campaigner all her life for a better world, whether that was with the Greenham Women way back, or in more recent years campaigning against fracking at Walkington, or her committed work with Hull Friends of the Earth, or regularly being a Green Party candidate in local and general elections, or to be found on a ship in the North Sea on a marine birdlife survey.

A life lived to the full and in a valuable way. She will be sadly missed.

So good at bringing peace to others, may she rest in peace herself."



An Angela selfie

рното: Angela Needham



Hull FoE cleanup of Humber foreshore. *Angela front right*PHOTO: Hilary Byers



Placing air sampling tubes in position for the Air Quality campaign PHOTO: LeeAnn Williams

Getting warmer?

The Climate Change Act 2008 established a legally-binding target of reducing the UK's emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other greenhouse gases by at least 80% (relative to 1990 levels) by the year 2050. To this end it requires the government to produce carbon budgets which provide legallybinding limits on the amount of these emissions which may be produced in successive 5-year periods, beginning in 2008. The Act also set up an independent body, the Committee on Climate Change (CCC), to advise the government on climate change, and to produce annual reports on the UK's progress towards meeting its carbon budgets and the 2050 target.

Progress made to date

So far, things have gone well, thanks mainly to big changes in the power sector, where gas and renewables have replaced coal in energy supply, and more energy-efficient designs have been found for industrial equipment as well as household appliances including light bulbs, TVs, fridges and gas boilers. In June 2017 the CCC were able to state in their latest annual report that emissions of carbon dioxide were down by 42% compared to 1990, while typical household energy bills have fallen in real terms by £10/month.

But not so rosy?

Halfway there, one might think, but looking ahead, the CCC find the picture notsorosy. The UK is committed, throughits 5th carbon budget, to increasing the CO₂ reduction from 42% to 57% by 2030, but no new mechanisms for doing this have been proposed. Indeed, the one serious proposal, investing in the capture and underground storage of CO, from power station chimneys, was immediately abandoned following the 2017 general election. Meanwhile emissions continue to rise from the building sector (almost inevitable if the current housing crisis is to be remedied), and also from transport, as ever more people regularly fly long distances or holiday on cruise ships. These two sectors between them account for 45% of current (2016) emissions.

Essential action

In a 2-page annex to their report, the CCC outline 30 policy requirements which they see as necessary to remedy the situation — including reinstating carbon capture and storage, an area where Hull University's own department of chemical engineering has been engaged. Other priorities include: a stable framework for improving the energy efficiency of existing buildings; ensuring that new-build properties can use low-carbon heating systems from the start, and increasing the uptake of electric vehicles at the expense of diesel and petrol.

At some point in 2018, the government will have to produce a response to the CCC's report. With 2016 being the first year in the past 800,000 where atmospheric concentrations averaged more than 400 parts per million, we can but hope they will heed the report's words that "This is an important moment for action to tackle climate change".

Rohan Lewis

Budding writers to publish this spring

arts

GOOD NEWS FOR WRITERS NEW AND NOT-SO-NEW.

Full Circle is a collaborative project for writers in Hull, including those living here and others from around the world, to write, and to get our work 'out there'.

The first book, *Healing Nature*, is due to flower full circle this spring. The book was inspired by Hull's community first Mad Pride and is the work of 15 different artists and writers on the theme of healing experiences in the natural world. We were very fortunate to receive some funding from Bud Hull to print the anthology of fantastic poetry, articles, short stories, photography and art, to free the mind and nourish the soul. The writers and artists have graciously contributed their work and we want to invite you to come to the launch night and make it a great night. This will be in spring 2018, and it promises to be a creative extravaganza of music,

writing, performance art and photography.

As well as publishing books, we are running an ongoing introductory writing course, and there are plans to put on creative writing festivals and events from 2018. We are putting a call out to creative people to get in touch. If you

are a budding writer, a seasoned writer or a creative facilitator, and want to contribute to the next book

> or event, or just want more opportunities to learn about writing and share your work, **please** get in touch.

In the future our aim is to have a bank of mentors to work with people to expand their writing. This is currently an unfunded project. If you know of any funding we'd love to know about it.

For the more information and to find out the launch date check out: www.fullcirclehull.org.uk

or email me at fullcirclehull@gmail.com

Dawn Woodmansey

What's going on?

Friends of Hull General Cemetery Activity

Days consist of a walk guided by an expert, plus a clean-up as you go along!

- ► Monuments in Winter- Sat 13 Jan
- ► Wild Garlic in Spring-Sat 24 March
- ▶ Bird Watching in Summer-Sat 16 June
- ► Cemetery Trees in Autumn- Sat 15 September

All 11am-2pm. Meet at the old cemetery gates on Spring Bank West. Bring carrier bags, gardening gloves and a litter picker if you have one.

RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch

Sat 27 to Mon 29 January. Register for a **free** pack with details of the birds to look for.:

https://ww2.rspb.org.uk

Community Trees Fund

Grants available for community groups wanting to plant trees on publically accessible land during National Tree Week [24 Nov to 2 Dec 2018]. Apply before 31st March. There is a separate fund for groups wanting to plant fruit trees. See www.treecouncil.org.uk/Grants/Community-Trees

Cooking on a Budget course

Started Mon 8 Jan at Boulevard Village Hall but might still be places. Contact Lausanne as above.



Hull Fairtrade City

Hull has renewed its Fairtrade City status and the Council is planning various activities for Fairtrade Fortnight between Monday 26 February and Sunday 11 March.

NB when shopping beware of terms like 'Fairly Traded'. Only items with the Fairtrade mark genuinely put the

farmer in control of how the extra you pay is spent on improving living conditions, education etc. With other schemes it is often the supermarket that calls the shots.

Hull Sustainable Food City, and Feeding the City Programme

Events coming up, plus help to set up sustainable food businesses. Successful applicants will receive guidance from business and food experts throughout 2018, receive bursaries and meet with investors. Contact Bryony on 07712321413 or bmacfadyen@goodwintrust.org

Spring Gardening course

Starts Wed 21 Feb 10am-12noon at Boulevard Village Hall. WEA course free to people on means tested benefits. Contact Lausanne on 07816 141169 or just turn up.

Make recycling plastic our priority

Now that China are refusing to accept plastic bottles with immediate effect, environmental organisations local, national and international must take immediate action and lobby local councillors and MPs, expressing FoE views on this matter.

We all know that plastic bottles can be made into "pellets" to make yet more bottles and containers, but, today, I have discovered that the tops of milk containers (both plastic and tetrapak), and soft drink bottles (this includes mineral water, tonic, cola etc), are recycled separately. A chap from our local Methodist church is collecting these tops on behalf of "Guide Dogs for the Blind", so, if all the ECO Readers out there can collect these tops and when you have a goodly amount, get them to any of our committee members, we can then pass them onto the appropriate person. This

helps not only our recycling objective but, also a very worthwhile charity.

At this time, there is much publicity regarding paper cups used by the various coffee houses. Costa (lot) are reducing the price of their coffee to anyone bringing back their cups. Costa, corner of Brook Street/Ferensway is offering 25p off. All Costa cafés will also recycle anyone else's cups.

It is worth noting that such cups have a thin layer of plastic inside, (for obvious reasons). However, a Hull company has perfected a process that dissolves this plastic, then the rest of the cup is cut into thin strips ready to be recycled in the usual way.

Personally, I think Hull FoE should take the plastic bottle "saga" very seriously and continue to clear the Humber foreshore, and also try and get media coverage (BBC LookNorth, ITV Calendar etc).

I feel most strongly about this recycling campaign. As you have probably noticed, Kingston upon Hull is not making life any easier for its residents by closing down one household waste site. What they should be doing is setting up a full recycling depot, sorting the waste out to the various components and then selling them to the companies that can process them.

Yes, a full recycling plant would be expensive to set up, but it would pay for itself in a fairly short time. The council may even get a lottery grant to help them set up this plant; after all they do seem to be experts at receiving grants!

I wish you all a Happy *recycling* New Year.

David Alexander



arah Morri

TRAVELS IN A VAN PART 4 - Heading East

We continue to follow Sarah and Paul as they travel through southern Portugal.

We are currently in the river border village of Alcoutim. Giardia River separates about a third of Portugal from Spain, where old forts are testament to their adversarial history. The villages are now connected by a one minute, one euro ferry journey and a death slide back if you don't fear heights. Alcoutim is about 40 kilometres north of the southeasterly point of Portugal, rural and idyllic. It feels like a secret find.

But the Eucalyptus plantations, heartbreakingly, are still the scourge of the landscape, aiding soil loss in the ever brown rivers, repelling native insects and mainly providing toilet paper for Europe. We stay in a car-park, with many other camper-van inhabitants from all over the world. We have the most delicious scenery; apart from a fence you are in a meadow. This morning the valley is full of mist. The olive tree meadow has a pastel green dew covering the ground. The mists roll back revealing silhouetted olive trees; they keep a darker green in this diffused light. A handful of grazing belled sheep, goats and geese meander around the aged olive tree trunks. The

small, white, Bethlehem-like village, nestled on the Spanish hillside, is slowly revealed. It is accompanied by fragrances beyond description and quadrophonic birdsong reflected off the hills. Between the engine noises of the village awakening, the beautiful conversation of the sparrows comes through. Sun is breaking the mist, the church tower over the river border chimes, soon replied to by the church on our side. The chimes bounce up and down the valley, the sounds playing with each other as if written by a composer. A cockerel crowing, dogs barking and a chainsaw ends the soundscape of nature's dawn.

From west to east we had driven, from our plantain, mint and clover clad meadow, where the skylight on top of our home is the frame for images of the branches above, flickering shadows cast like roped arms. Leaving the Odeceixe valley, with its hills like slumped feather pillows, for the next part of our easterly adventure, across the south coast.

From the nature reserve in Sagres Fortress, the most south-westerly point of Europe, onwards east we drove, noting many beautiful beaches suitable for future visits. By Wednesday the 26th October we find Casa Velha. A sea edged lagoon on the Portuguese southeast coast, sand scared by rain and feet, oyster growing frames abandoned in the sun. The salty lagoon laps gently with the background roar of the Atlantic behind the sea locking dunes. A dead jelly fish family bask in the sand. Ants swiftly soldier up dunes created by feet. Delicate insects mate in the air; we can only dream of such liberation. Fish break the surface of the sparkling ripples, the air is salty with overtones of seaweed, that harbour smell with the burn of the sun. Small pine, yucca and fruiting cacti divide land and beach. The village above is quaint, with blue plaques of many poets drawn to the peaceful beauty that surrounds this small village, almost a hamlet.

We sadly leave Alcoutim after two nights, via the mountains to the north of the Algarve to our next volunteering post back in the Odeceixe Valley.

Sarah Morris

r.u.ok?

r.u.ok?, giving more emphasis to its role as a local charity supporting people who feel excluded from their local communities because of mental health problems or other barriers to social inclusion.

The new CEO, Rick Brooks, says "Asking the question, 'Are you OK?' is at the core of showing how much we care about the mental health of the people of Hull."

Recycling old timber into garden furniture is still at the heart of what they do at **their woodwork shop at Bontoft Avenue**, where people are able to work at their own pace. They still have their **shop and main office at 151 Newland Avenue** but have left The Yard at 204 Newland Avenue and have opened **a new shop at 328 Hessle Road.** Both shops are getting an upgrade. They have also let go of running the City Farm at the rear of Kingston Youth Centre, leaving it to be self-supporting.

r.u.ok? IS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS AND ALSO FOR CORPORATE SPONSORS. FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE THEIR WEBSITE AT WWW.RECYCLINGUNLIMITED.ORG.UK

If you are thinking about new items for your garden, including benches and planters, you will want to see http://www.recyclingunlimited.co.uk/index.php/garden-furniture

Shops are open 9am to 5pm Mon to Sat. (info from **r.u.ok?** winter newsletter.)

UPDATE FROM THE

Beverley Road Community Farm

In the autumn we were disappointed to hear that 'Recycling Unlimited' would be handing the lease of the land at the rear of Kingston Youth Centre back to Hull City Council at the end of December.

However over the past few weeks, workers and adult learners on the site have combined their knowledge and enthusiasm to give consideration as to how the Community Farm project might be supported in 2018.

Regular meetings have been taking place on the site with a community worker, a community artist, volunteers and site management staff attending the meeting. The most significant contribution has come from the local British Forces Veterans.

Encouragement has come from talking to British Legion, appropriate council officers and Hilary Byers of Hull Friends of the Earth, with Community Triumph providing administrative support.

Although the future is uncertain, a Steering Group has now been formed and will continue to meet on a weekly basis to keep alive the possibility of coming together, growing together and celebrating together at the community farm.

The Steering Group of Beverley Road Community Farm

Contact Kevin Walsh, Secretary 07950186821



Events coming up in 2018 include

Seed Swap to be held Mon 12 Feb, 7.45pm Boulevard Village Hall. Please bring surplus seeds to swap: they can be seeds you've saved yourselves or surplus packet seeds.

We have had contact with the EU funded **ISABEL** community biogas project. This is involved in exploring with interested communities the feasibility of small scale community biogas as a means of treating organic waste locally and producing energy and fertiliser for growing systems as an element of the circular economy.

We may be setting up a meeting locally for these ideas to be discussed, but have no date as yet. There will be an announcement on the Transition & Permaculture Hull Mailing List in due course.

To join the mailing list contact Jenny Parsons jenny@transitionhull.co.uk or Lausanne Tranter lausannet@yahoo.co.uk

Jenny Parsons Treasurer, Transition & Permaculture Hull http://www.transitionhull.co.uk/ 01482 845356

Help build a roundhouse

Constable Community allotment is thriving and we have achieved a great deal in less than two years. We



have 2 polytunnels and a compost toilet with wheelchair access. We built a cob pizza oven and grew lots of veg! We also held a "City of Permaculture Day" (of course!) along with a variety of events including a Biochar Workshop, a Forest Gardening Course, the Cob oven build and much more.

In 2018 we are hoping to build a **Roundhouse** under the supervision of Graham Johnson [subject to getting planning permission]. The Roundhouse will act as a shelter

and somewhere for the gardeners to gather. Volunteers will be able to learn how to build by participating in the project. We are also going to start planting a **Forest Garden**. We will be holding lots of other events throughout the year and you are all welcome to get involved.

Why not visit us on Constable Street, HU3 3DF off Cholmley Street. We'll have the kettle on!

Happy New Year!

Lausanne Tranter

I wish to become a member of Hull FoE □ I wish to renew my Hull FoE membership □		Payment Please note: subs are due by 1 April each year If you are a national Friends of the Earth member you do need to pay separately to be a Local Group member.			
Name				l enclose:	
Address				Membership fee (£5 waged, £2 unwaged)	£
				Donation*	£
Postcode				Total	£
Telephone		Please make cheques payable to: Hull Friends of the Earth, and send to the Membership Secretary (address below)			
Email					
I WANT TO PAY BY STANDING ORDER 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 Karen (details below) 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 How do you want to get ECO? by email (in colour)? in print by post? Tick either, or both		Many of our mem us a donation on you can spare a b all helps our camp	tr donations! Abers are very generous and give top of their membership fee; if the extra we really appreciate it. It paigning efforts and to keep you in ECO (see below)		

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.



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).

Coordinator:	Lee-ann Williams, 166 Meadowbank Road, Hull HU3 6XP	Tel: 07583 194313		
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