



# Hull

# EC



Hull's environmental newsletter. Published by Hull Friends of the Earth [www.hfoe.org.uk](http://www.hfoe.org.uk)

July 2017 Issue 58

## DIARY DATES

### Tues 1 Aug, 7pm

HFoE meeting at Vintage Café, Chanterlands Avenue HU5 3TP

### Sun 3 Sept

Freedom Festival, 5-8pm in Queens Gardens

### Tues 5 Sept, 7pm

HFoE meeting at Vintage Café, Chanterlands Avenue HU5 3TP

*Stall bookings start for Autumn Green Fair*

### Fri 22-Sun 24 Sept

Cornucopia Festival at Burton Constable Hall  
Details/tickets: [www.cornucopiafestival.co.uk](http://www.cornucopiafestival.co.uk)

### Tues 3 Oct, 7pm

HFoE meeting at Vintage Café, Chanterlands Avenue HU5 3TP

*Next ECO deadline*

### Sat 4 Nov, 10.30-3pm

Autumn Green Fair, Kingston Youth Centre, Beverley Road HU3 1YE

### Tues 7 Nov, 7pm

HFoE meeting at Vintage Café, Chanterlands Avenue HU5 3TP

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## Camping at Green Gardens



- Green Gardens embraces the permaculture ethics such as: Care of the Earth, Care of people & Fair Share.
- We are close to Beverley Minster and Town Centre, there is a bus stop across the road and the train station is a 15 minutes walk away, ideal for walkers, cyclists or persons using public transport.
- Two person pop up tents available on request.
- We have a chiminea and rocket stoves with free firewood.
- We stock some provisions from a local whole food supplier & if you are lucky, homemade jam, chutney etc.



If the weather is not great, there is a large shed with kettle, washing up bowls, games, jigsaws and books,

**£5 per person  
per night**

**Ring Sally & Luke  
on:**

**07907 843778**

# ECO Chit Chat

## Spring Green Fair

Our Green Fair held for the first time in May at Kingston Youth Centre proved not to attract quite as many stallholders and members of the public as our usual autumn fairs. Nevertheless, people enjoyed the gardens managed by the young people at the centre; children especially appreciated the 'Pixie House' [the lovely new timber summerhouse]. Recycling Unlimited's City Farm also benefited from the interest of visitors. And of course, as ever, Timebank's Green Café was much appreciated.

**Make a note now of our Autumn Green Fair** at Kingston Youth Centre on **Saturday 4 November** 10.30am to 3pm. *Stall bookings taken from the beginning of September.*  
Contact Hilary @amskaya.karoo.co.uk, 01482 445747

## Wilson Bed

We are meeting up outside Wilson Centre, Alfred Gelder Street, **every Monday at 10am to 12noon** from now until the **Freedom Festival** on 3 September, to weed, water and eventually harvest. All welcome to help. We won't be there if it's chucking it down! The pigeons had a feast at our expense in the early stages but veg seems to be recovering now, if a little behind.

## Shore clean –up

In past years we have taken part in beach clean-ups organised by the Marine Conservation Society in September; the next one is **15-18 September 2017**. The clean ups are also surveys which gather useful information about changing trends. We've nothing planned yet, but get in touch if you would be interested in taking part; contact any of the members with details on the back page.

## Greenpeace bird watching for plastic

Greenpeace are sailing their ship the Beluga II around the coast of Scotland, documenting the impact of plastic pollution on some of our most loved wildlife. They say:



Young people at the Kingston Youth Centre created a collage at the Spring Green Fair, drawing attention to the problem of plastic waste in our oceans.

'Our first stop was the Bass rock. This unassuming rock is teeming with birdlife and a true spectacle to behold. However it was covered in plastic waste and we saw plastic being used by gannets to make their nests instead of natural material, like seaweed. With studies showing that 90% of

seabirds have ingested plastic, it made us more certain than ever that we need to do something about this problem. We need urgent action from major soft drinks companies like Coca-Cola and governments to stop the flow of plastic entering the sea.'

More info from [www.greenpeace.org.uk/oceans/plastics](http://www.greenpeace.org.uk/oceans/plastics)

## Could your organisation help people in Hull be more resilient to floods?

The Environment Agency would like to work with a small number of community organisations in Hull to pilot an innovative approach aimed at helping people to be better prepared for flooding.

The pilot project will run until the end of March 2018 and they are calling for expressions of interest from organisations who are interested in participating.

If your organisation would like to participate, please email [john.dickinson1@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:john.dickinson1@environment-agency.gov.uk) or call him on 07825 103834. **Please send any expression of interest by Friday 4 August 2017.**

## Fairtrade post Brexit

The government has pledged that millions of Fairtrade farmers and workers in developing countries can continue to import their produce into the UK tax-free post-Brexit. This is thanks to a campaign of petitions and emails to MPs from thousands of Fairtrade supporters telling International Trade Minister Liam Fox to act fast on this issue.

## Take a day trip on your local line

This summer, why not take a day trip to the seaside along one of our local rail lines? Yorkshire Coast Community Rail Partnership are promoting the Hull-Scarborough and the Barton-Cleethorpes line and all the places to visit along both routes. See <http://www.cartogold.co.uk/Community-Rail-Humber/map.html> or visit their stand at Hull Paragon Station on Tuesday 1 August 11am to 3pm

## Summer events on the Pocklington Canal

As part of the Heritage Lottery Fund project currently taking place on the Pocklington Canal, the Canal and River Trust is running events throughout the summer to encourage people to come and enjoy both the historical and natural heritage of the canal.

For example, between the 11 and 14 August the public are invited to come and help weave a life-sized willow sculpture. The skill of willow weaving was important in the canal's past, when coppices were maintained in the lower reaches providing material for baskets and eel traps.

Events are free, and details can be found at [www.pocklingtoncanal.eventbrite.com](http://www.pocklingtoncanal.eventbrite.com)



# Bee state—scratching the surface

*Faced with the news that bee colony losses were causing concern nationally, Hull ECO asked bee expert Chris Coulson about the local situation.*

Against the adage that honey bees are responsible for one in three mouthfuls of the food we eat, the health and number of our bees is of concern. The British Beekeepers Association (BBKA) reported in July 2016 that the honey bee is still under pressure. Colony losses in the North East were 18% though in East Yorkshire 2015-16 losses were 23%. Nottinghamshire lost 60.8%!

Poor summers can prevent bees from building up and gathering enough stores to see them through the winter. Mild winters can cause the bees to remain more active than usual and live off their stores—only to run out by early spring and starve.

Of course bees have always had diseases and pests but modern trade allows these to be transported easily and quickly. The Varroa mite, introduced in 1992 from Asia, continues to cause problems weakening colonies and introducing bee viruses. Nosema, a very infectious disease of the bee's gut, flares up in moist warm conditions and can kill colonies—as I have found out! Bee-keepers try to keep on top of general diseases and pests and many other beekeeping problems but certain very serious diseases still stalk our bees. European Foul Brood and American Foul Brood (both present in Yorkshire), strike fear into the hearts of beekeepers as bees and hives with the latter have to be incinerated. The Asian hornet, from China, pitched up in south west France and, after several years moving through that country, appeared in the UK in October and November 2016. An adult hornet can kill 40 bees a minute so a hive with a hornets' nest near by is in great danger. One of these hornets recently turned up in Scotland presumably having hitched a ride in a vehicle! The Small Hive Beetle appeared in Italy in 2016 having made its European debut earlier but 'escaped' the quarantine ring through the activities of a 'maverick' beekeeper moving hives—so beekeepers are not without blame.



Bee hives at the City Farm, behind Kingston Youth Centre, Beverley Road, Hull

Of the 44,000 beekeepers in Britain only about 22,000 are members of the BBKA. This means that a fair number remain outside the information network and don't avail themselves of the free information and inspections open to registered members from the National Bee Labs in York. For instance

we should call the Bee Inspector if a swarm is found within a kilometre of the Humber as it could have come in on a boat from some other country and may need to be quarantined. This was the case of the now famous 'bees in a car' that I recently attended in east Hull ([see link below](#)).

Some regard registration as a curtailment of their liberties but this is a short-sighted view given the pressures that the honey bee is under. Young people don't take up the craft as they did between the wars and just after WWII when the honey bee was recognised as important contributor to

our food supply. Health and Safety considerations now make school beekeeping difficult and teachers I know have usually given up keeping them at school. A few years ago I went to Arkengarthdale, North Yorkshire, to present an ex-Hull man with a certificate for 80 years beekeeping! He had learned his craft, between the wars, in an east Hull primary school. We won't see the likes of that again—more's the pity. And so beekeepers plod on trying to keep the population of honey bees (as well as other pollinators) up and support from the public is important to us. You can't imagine what 'stick' we get from some people who seem to regard us as part of 'the council' and expect us to drop everything and drive miles, at our own expense, to sort out a fly on their window sill!

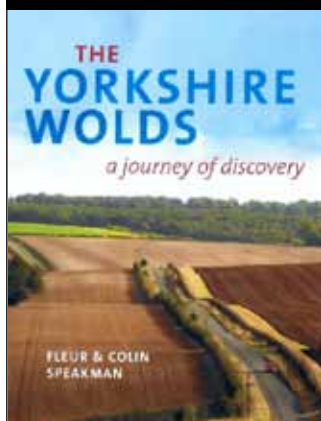
And so it goes. We take on each new season with hope in our beekeeping hearts but with an educated eye on the welfare of our stripey friends!

**Chris Coulson**

Beverley Beekeepers Association

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-humber-40252990>

## BOOK REVIEW



### THE YORKSHIRE WOLDS, a journey of discovery

by Fleur and Colin Speakman

As a keen cyclist and long-standing member of several travel and access groups, I have gained some knowledge of, and familiarity with, our wonderful Wolds and all the villages in the area. I can see many reasons to promote this magnificent book. Never before have I seen such a full and varied account of the various interests covering the total landscape of our Yorkshire Wolds.

*Photographs by Dorian Speakman*

Published by Gritstone (a writers cooperative), Price £15.

**Brian Witty**

# See you at Basecamp next year

*Basecamp is Friends of the Earth's national get together held each year in early June at Castleton Youth Hostel in Derbyshire. Here Angela shares her experience.*

People might decide to go to basecamp for a lot of reasons. This year I decided to go because I wanted to go camping and spend some time under the stars. I wanted to get away from the election while still being involved. I went because I had enjoyed the atmosphere previously. It is held in a beautiful place, the food is really good, there are lots of different things going on and everyone else is like-minded. Yes I was happy to go to some workshops, to expand my awareness and understanding. But I certainly didn't go to do that all day.

You and your children could go to have a really good time without having to spend a fortune or make a big carbon footprint on the environment. You don't have to be a member of FoE. You don't have to be any sort of expert. You don't have to be an active campaigner. Though you might find that basecamp inspires you to try it.

Our keynote speaker was **Hahrie Han**. She is a political scientist from the University of California, who has written on how organisations develop activists (see [www.hahriehan.com/books](http://www.hahriehan.com/books))

We considered how to help more people, especially young ones, feel able to participate in the political process in the broadest sense.

Here is a flavour of the discussion:

- ▶ When we say educate, do we mean education or training? Education based on exams squashes innovation.
- ▶ A fairer electoral system might make people more interested in politics.
- ▶ What might we learn from other places? Is there a right to travel, and can we develop travel which isn't based on cars? Copenhagen, Amsterdam and Switzerland all demonstrate possibilities.
- ▶ Can we use the power of marketing to promote sustainability? Can we reform and encourage the use of marketing instead of just saying its bad?
- ▶ China's agri- economy uses land for multiple purposes; we could learn better ways of managing land.
- ▶ We already have climate refugees. We need to recognise the size of the situation. For example 20m people were displaced by typhoons. 20% of Pakistan's people have been displaced by climate related problems. Climate change increases inequalities, as the poor have less and less ability to adapt. How will the world respond?
- ▶ We need to change our culture from concentrating on what we own to what we do. Can we learn from the way



city mayors are using their power to refuse the lead of Trump as he backs out of the Paris Agreement?

Scotland, for instance, has to look for a partnership between unions, government and FoE as oil becomes less central to its economy. This involves public ownership, retraining, job creation, and renewables. Protecting livelihoods might mean that huge salaries from working on the oil rigs cannot be retained. So there will be tensions between the partners. Small businesses proliferate in renewables, but this means they are probably not unionised. How do we talk union language? There are exciting opportunities here to develop new alliances.

We don't know what Brexit will bring but we do know that changes are inevitable. We need to prepare for these instead of waiting for the sudden crash of an industry, such as was experienced by many industries in the 1960s and 1970s (eg the fishing industry here in Hull)

We need to be reminded of, for example, the Lucas Plan, developed between the unions and CAAT. Here the unions were central in exploring how transition programmes could use transferable skills and factories to truly beat swords into ploughshares.

Why are these things problems; why are they hard to solve? We will need to make personal changes, change our understanding of money, and understand that the same person in different contexts may have or not have power. We need to explore having power with rather than power over.

Hahrie Han encouraged us to understand the fundamental difference between mobilising and organising. Which do we do? Are we trying to enable transformation?

*continued on page 6*

# Working with my green fingers

I left my job (office work, in Willerby) in April 2016. I didn't really want to go into yet another office job, or a callcentre (done that, more than once), and in one of those thoughts out of nowhere, decided to go into gardening. Got some business cards printed, told people at church, and "Robin Gardening Services" started 'trading' on 30 May.

Where I live in east Hull, there are lots of widows living alone, with their gardens getting overgrown because the husband is no longer around to take care of it, and she can't do it because her knees have gone.

This year since the end of February, I've been pretty much full-time, with not many spare mornings or afternoons. What I don't miss is the commuting (10 miles, twice a day); the commute now is 5-7 mins, usually on a bike! I do have to drive sometimes, either because it's too far, or I need to take larger tools or the lawnmower. I can bank my takings at the local post office, and go home for lunch.

One thing which I think counts in my favour, particularly with "little old dears" is that because I'm female, and small, I may not seem quite as intimidating as a big chap would (no disrespect, gents!). A new client asked if I'd like a drink: "Tea, coffee – or a gin and tonic?"! She does,

however, have the garden where a G&T at 2 o'clock in the afternoon would not be out of place!

I haven't lost many clients; the most recent was a lady who only started in December, surprisingly; she died in mid-June. The one I lost before her told me I had no experience – although what experience I needed for hoeing a border which didn't need hoeing, or raking gravel which wasn't driven over, I don't know!

Amusing things: the client who has fake ivy covering an ugly fence: if you're going to have ivy you might as well have the fake stuff – you won't be pulling it out in a few years' time! A lady who works in the post office told me that because I bank in dribs and drabs, she thought I was either gardening or dealing drugs! I'm growing some agapanthus seeds from a client's garden, having spoken to Doug Stewart on Radio Humberside to ask if it was worth trying. His first question was if I'd asked the owner's permission (his mother has a garden full of plants culled from various houses & garden centres, including some lilies she's named Highgrove!); I replied I'd merely diverted the seedheads from the compost bin!

Downsides: I used to hate roses – because you always find the thorns!

Fingers sore from thorns (sometimes embedded); arms itchy & blotchy from rubbing against hairy plants. Wearing thick woolly socks in warm weather seems ridiculous. Getting sunburnt on my back because my t-shirt was too thin... Work itself is limited by the weather; my own physical capabilities (can't do more than 5 hours/day, really); and if the client has carers, I can't really start work before 9.30 or 10 am. I'm often absolutely knackered at the end of the day, but it's an "honest" tiredness, from having been active.

So I don't miss office work, even though I'm a lot poorer financially, but my quality of life is so much better. People (usually) appreciate what I do: plants are there which weren't there before; weeds have gone. It's nice to get to know the local community better, and I enjoy organising my own schedule.

More than many jobs, gardening makes you realise how quickly the year goes. One week, and some flowers are just coming out; go back a week or so later, and they're going over and others are coming out.

Heigh ho – happy days, and may it only rain at night, and the sun always shine!

Contact details:

**Helen 07990 994805**

## Clean air

Inspired by Hahrie Han's talk at Basecamp, here are some practical applications as to how we can engage people in our campaign for clean air. We can make culture changes. We have stopped smoking indoors and much drunken driving. They both involved a change of culture.

- ▶ Children in schools doing their own monitoring of air pollution engages them in the process.
- ▶ The University of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Age could be a point of engagement for older people.
- ▶ Healthy City Partnerships, asthma groups, doctors and public health departments are all potential partners for changing cultural attitudes of the next generation through our schools.
- ▶ Public health departments could have a leaflet about the effects of idling car engines.

- ▶ Healthy City Partnerships, asthma groups, doctors and public health departments are all potential partners for changing cultural attitudes of the next generation through our schools.
- ▶ Visit toddler groups.
- ▶ Use libraries to show posters with information, such as the number of premature deaths in our city.
- ▶ With whatever groups we seek to work, we need to explore why they have agreed to meet, and what they can tell us. Talk to resident associations etc. Invite MPs and Councillors.
- ▶ Encourage those who become involved to commit to something, even if it's not what we really wanted. Learn what is going on for them as well.

**Angela Needham**





We are organising an event in September to celebrate Permaculture. As 2017 is the Hull City of Culture year we are calling it:

# Hull City of Permaculture

**on Sat 16 September 2017, from 11 am to 4 pm**



## at Constable School Field & Constable Community Allotment

There will be workshops given by permaculturists from different areas, and from Hull. There will be a variety of stalls, all with a focus on sustainability, with live music, children's activities and refreshments.

We plan to involve various green groups from the local area, and hope that it will be a great networking opportunity and a chance to find out lots of things you didn't know.

If you want to get involved, please contact Lausanne Tranter on 07816 141169 or email her on [lausannet@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lausannet@yahoo.co.uk)

## Family Fun Day - 9 August, 9-12 noon

In August we will be, together with Friends of Constable Street Field, involved in the annual Family Fun Day held on the field. The Fun Day will take place on **Wednesday, 9 August from 12 noon**. As ever, we are very grateful for the help of volunteers who make this day such a success.

### ***Past activities:***

#### ***Visit to Bakersville allotment***

Since the last ECO, we held a visit in May to Bakersville Allotment on the Newland Allotments site. This was a follow up to last year's visit and also gave a chance for people who missed last year's event to explore this thriving project.

#### ***Creating a cob oven***

In June we ran sessions leading to the creation of a cob oven on Constable Community Allotment and were grateful for all the volunteer help we received.

#### **Jenny Parsons**

Treasurer, Transition & Permaculture Hull

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

Tel: 01482 845356

*Transition & Permaculture Hull is funded by Grassroots Endowment & Two Ridings Community Foundation*

See you at Basecamp next year, *continued from page 4*

As well as attending talks, I did some yoga, and meditated, and lay in my tent from dawn every morning listening to a song thrush. And I met a wonderful group of folk singers who I hope we can

hear in Hull sometime. I made contact with a woman who is trying to start a FoE group in North Lincs with whom we may want to work. I remembered how nice it is to flavour food with limejuice.

Two words for it all then: Sweet and Sour. Enjoy...

**Angela Needham**

# Frack Free East Yorkshire news

Major fracking companies Cuadrilla Resources and Ineos Upstream have now taken up licences across East Yorkshire, and committed to seismic testing, drilling, and fracking of wells—the next steps in intensive gas field development.

But opposition and resistance continue to increase. Local groups continue organising inspirational and informative events and new groups are getting active in Kilham and Nafferton.

Widespread opposition and ongoing protests everywhere are causing delays and cost increases that deter investors.

Rathlin Energy, whose mini-frack went wrong at West Newton A, still show no signs of beginning to drill their seriously behind schedule West Newton B well, fuelling suspicion of financial difficulties.

French energy company Engie had a 30% share in most of the Cuadrilla licences in East Yorkshire—but in March Engie completely abandoned UK shale. Reuters reported that along with low oil prices, "progress has been slow over the past years due to regulatory hurdles and public protests." The holdings have now been acquired by Ineos, but some see that as a hopeless and reckless investment.

In Ryedale, North Yorkshire, planning permission was granted for Third Energy (97% owned by Barclays Bank) to frack at Kirby Misperton, despite several thousand objections, with over 99% of submitted comments opposed. The high court legal challenges did not succeed, so fracking is now imminent, (see below) and a Community Protection Camp has been established - please drop by to offer support.

Information from Frack Free East Yorkshire Newsletter.

see [www.frackfreeeastyorkshire.com](http://www.frackfreeeastyorkshire.com)

## More about Fracking at Kirby Misperton

THIRD Energy, the company who intend to "frack" a gas well at Kirby Misperton, have submitted their 'hydraulic fracture plan' to the Environment Agency—the final stage of the process before the operation can commence.

Hull Friends of the Earth's

# Green Fair

this year will be on **Saturday 4 November 2017**

Stalls arrive from 9.30am, open to the public from 10.30am. Finish 3.30pm

at Kingston Youth Centre, 48A Beverley Road Hull HU3 1YE  
(Kingston Youth Centre is near the City centre end of Beverley Road)

Our Green Fair is about caring for planet earth, or our part of it, so if you are a broadly 'green' organisation, business or craftsperson we are hoping you will come along with lots of activities—artistic, dramatic, musical or workshops, as well as stalls. It is a real chance to involve young people in what you do, so let's take the opportunity to get people doing things!

**The vegetarian Green Café, with vegan options, is always popular!**

Stalls are £15 with a table or £12 if you bring your own.

**Contact Hilary, any time from now onwards.** Whether you have a stall or activity, or just come along, please tell lots of other people!

### ENTRANCE IS FREE

- ▶ Stall bookings from [hilary@amskaya.karoo.co.uk](mailto:hilary@amskaya.karoo.co.uk) or 01482 445747
- ▶ Talk about your ideas for arts, music, workshops etc with Angela on 07737 249461 or [angelaneedham88@gmail.com](mailto:angelaneedham88@gmail.com)
- ▶ We need volunteers to help on the day, especially people who can arrive at 9.30am to help set up, or stay to help clear up.

**We could also use someone with a First Aid certificate.** Please contact any of the Hull FoE Green Fair Team (Hilary, Angela, Lee-Ann, Graham, or Karen) as soon as possible (*details back page*).

The plan, which is publically available on the Environment Agency's 'citizen space' website, is described by the company's director of operations John Dewar as the "final step of a long process."

He said: "It's taken us a couple of years to get to this point; we've had a lot of conditions to discharge for the council and for the EA."

He said that the plan is specifically aimed at "preventing what happened at Preese Hall in Lancashire, with Cuadrilla in 2011, from happening again."

That was a seismic event which measured 2.3 on the Richter scale—a magnitude that was felt by local people.

Info from *The Planner*



**BURTON CONSTABLE HALL**  
**22 - 24 SEPTEMBER 2017**

Escape to Cornucopia Festival for the weekend. You can sample live music, great comedy, wonderful dance, brilliant cabaret, delicious food and craft beers. We have two large indoor stages plus family friendly activities all weekend long within the festival village.

[WWW.CORNUCOPIAFESTIVAL.CO.UK](http://WWW.CORNUCOPIAFESTIVAL.CO.UK)  
TELEPHONE: 01377 217406

# What price wind energy?

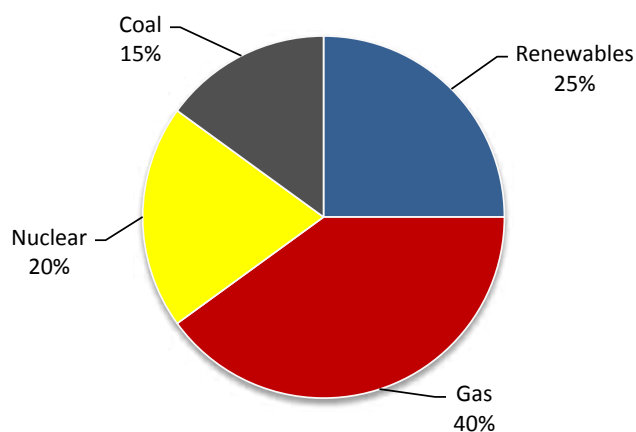
*"Monstrosities!"* glowered my companion in the walking group, as we passed close to the new wind turbines on the hill above Sancton. *"I read in a newspaper that it costs every household in Britain £180 a year to subsidise these things".* With a reticence which was almost appealing, he admitted that this newspaper "might have been" the Daily Mail.

## True costs of renewable power

While I was fairly certain this figure was exaggerated, it set me the challenge of coming up with a true figure. With the help of online information from the Department of Energy and Climate Change (as of April 2016 renamed the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, DBEIS), Renewables UK (the Wind & Tidal Energy producers' own website), Wikipedia, Greenpeace, and The Carbon Trust, I have come up with the following.

According to DECC, 320 Terawatt-hours of electricity were generated in the UK in 2016. (A Terawatt is a thousand Gigawatts, or a million Megawatts, or a billion Kilowatts). About a quarter of this is from what the government classifies as "renewables" (fig.1).

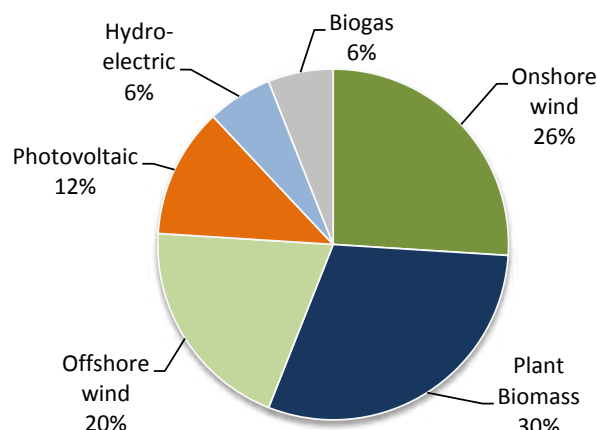
**Fig 1 UK electricity generation 2016 by source**  
(from DBEIS 2017)



The "renewables" are further analysed as to source in figure 2 below, from which it is clear that wind energy is by far the largest contributor, well ahead of photovoltaic (solar) power and biogas from the anaerobic digestion of agricultural and food waste. (Indeed, after wind the next largest category, at 30%, is plant biomass. Most of this is in fact imported wood pellets, with very doubtful claims to being renewable, as it has been shown that many of these are obtained not from plantations but from the logging of ancient woodland in North America).

But to return to the subject: the current cheapest available UK wholesale electricity ("spot price") is around 4 pence/kWh. To generate from onshore wind turbines costs about 7 pence/kWh. This has been agreed by the government, and is known as

**Fig 2 Renewable UK electricity by source 2016**  
(from DBEIS 2017)



the "strike price" under the Contract for Difference (CfD) scheme introduced in 2014. The generator is allowed to claim back the difference between strike and spot prices (in this case 3p/kWh) as a subsidy. This is estimated by the wind energy industry to cost the average UK household £18 per year.

Of course, since April 2016 the government has refused any CfD support at all for new onshore wind power, but with the costs of installing and running turbines continuing to fall at 2-3% per year, it is estimated that by 2020 it will achieve parity with the spot price anyway, and so not require any.

What of offshore wind? Because of the extra costs of working on the sea bed, the electricity produced is currently around twice as expensive, which makes the subsidy 10 pence instead of 3 pence per kWh – say £60 per household per year. Applying the current 50:50 onshore/offshore split in the UK to these figures would give an average subsidy estimate of £39 per household annually for UK wind power as a whole. But offshore wind turbine costs too are falling at the same rate, and are on course to be economic without subsidy by 2040.

## Nuclear power costs

It is worth comparing these figures with some relating to the proposed new nuclear power station in Somerset, known as Hinkley C:

- ▶ Hinkley C is intended to produce about one sixth as much energy as all the UK wind turbines combined (3.2 GW installed capacity vs 20 GW), and will start generation in 2025 at the earliest.
- ▶ Costs of building and running nuclear plants have been rising rather than falling due to the implementation of increased safety measures.
- ▶ Generating costs for Hinkley C ("strike price") have been agreed by the government as 9.25p/kWh, making the subsidy 5.25p/kWh at current electricity prices: this will be guaranteed for 35 years— a deal which the wind energy sector "would give an arm and a leg, minimum" to achieve according to one senior executive\*.



# Local Green Groups news and events

## Frith Farm

Frith is a new local CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) farm at Molescroft near Beverley. We aim to provide local people with quality food and improve the way in which food is produced and distributed. Frith places a major focus on quality; combining chemical-free, fresh produce with sustainable production and distribution methods.

We are developing a diverse and productive farm; in the long term, we intend to expand the farm in order to produce fruit, fermented foods and keep chickens and cows.

LOOK OUT ALSO FOR  
OUR PRODUCE IN **GRAIN**  
**WHOLEFOODS** IN HULL AND  
**VANESSA'S DELI** IN BEVERLEY

A CSA is very much like a box scheme. Basically, you pay a weekly/monthly/annual subscription to receive a

share of the harvest, which will be a large variety of seasonal veggies, all produced on Frith Farm.

Members and volunteers are welcome to join in the farming process too:

- **Work mornings** led by the grower every Wednesday morning 10am-1pm and the last Saturday of the month 10am-1pm.
- **Harvest mornings** on Mondays and Thursdays 10am-2pm; this is for the more regular volunteer. As harvesting requires special know how, you will be given training on how to harvest each crop.

If you would like to work on the farm call Ben 07521 757 587 or e-mail [info@frithfarming.com](mailto:info@frithfarming.com)

Our website: <https://frithfarming.com/about/>

## Rooted in Hull

Rooted in Hull (RiH) is an innovative Urban Agriculture Project currently being developed on St Peter's Street in the centre of Hull, HU9 1AA Map

Working in partnership with local business, RiH has take over a vacant development site and, with the help of community groups and local and national charities, it is transforming a long standing derelict site into community space and a micro enterprise hub based around food, farming and the environment that will support city residents where it is most needed. When required the whole project can be moved to another site, allowing development to take place.

Crucially, RiH aspires to develop an economically self-sustaining social enterprise and protect itself from the boom and bust cycle created by a dependency on grant funding.

RiH works closely with Hull College, supporting 14-16 year old students of construction to deliver real projects in the community. To date, students have converted three shipping containers to create a multipurpose space, shop and catering unit to be installed on site alongside a number of raised bed kits. They have also manufactured raised beds and a bench for two care homes in Hull.

Rooted in Hull is in the early stages of construction and needs to secure additional capital funding. For more information get in touch via [www.rootedinhull.org.uk](http://www.rootedinhull.org.uk).

Volunteer sessions run every Wednesday from 9am until mid afternoon. Snacks and drinks are provided, and there are basic amenities on site. To get involved, contact them at [volunteers@rootedinhull.org.uk](mailto:volunteers@rootedinhull.org.uk).

## Harvest Days on Pickering Road Community Orchard

The harvest days are as follows: 12 noon until 3 pm

<b>August</b> .....	Sunday 20
<b>September</b> .....	Sunday 10
.....	Saturday 23
.....	Sunday 24
<b>October</b> .....	Sunday 8
.....	Sunday 15
.....	Sunday 22



Stalls at the May Day Fair 2017 at Pickering Road Community Orchard

Come and try different varieties at different times!

Yvette Grindley

Pickering Road Community Orchard



Currently recruiting volunteers!

.....  
We need  
**YOU**  
.....



[www.hullharvestfestival.org.uk](http://www.hullharvestfestival.org.uk)

It's now less than two months until the Freedom FEASTival—Hull's biggest locally-grown shared feast! Many people have already been involved in the preparations and build-up to this celebration of local abundance, and it's not too late to join us! We are aiming to prepare 1500 mouth-watering meals on the big day in September, and are still adding to our team of volunteers: growers, promoters, cooks, kitchen assistants, front of house volunteers and our logistics team.



### 'Veg pledge' champions

Help us spread the word - putting up posters, flyering, recruiting growers.

### Logistics/Growing/Harvesting

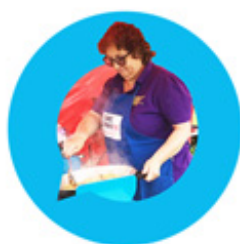
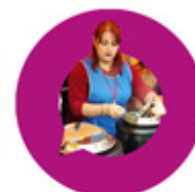
Helping us grow and harvest crops across sites in and around the city. Drivers willing to give lifts would be very welcome.



Call 01482 427647 / 07740 112936  
[hello@hullharvestfestival.org.uk](mailto:hello@hullharvestfestival.org.uk)

### Kitchen Assistants

Supporting head chefs with whatever they need



### Head Chefs

Qualified & creative with experience of improvising and cooking for large numbers of people.



### Front of House

The face of the Freedom FEASTival communicating, seating guests and serving on the day.

**Apply now** [www.hullharvestfestival.org.uk/get-involved-register-today](http://www.hullharvestfestival.org.uk/get-involved-register-today)

What price wind energy? *continued from page 10*

- For this 35-year period (2025-2060), the government estimates this will add about £7 per year to the average UK household electricity bill, i.e. about a quarter the amount being paid out for wind, for a sixth of the amount of electricity.
- Assuming that offshore wind energy generation costs do fall, as anticipated, to parity with the spot price of electricity by 2040, that sector will then be receiving no further subsidy. However Hinkley C will continue

in receipt of any difference between its strike price of 9.25p/kWh and the spot price of electricity for a further 20 years.

\*This was Henrik Stiesdal of Siemens, one of the pioneers of wind energy. The recent lecture from which this quote is taken is fascinating, and can be viewed online at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UXRRN7R7EZQ>

Rohan Lewis

# TRAVELS IN A VAN

## PART 3 – The destination

Sarah and Paul are travelling around Europe in their converted van. In Part 3 they are at Illa de Arousa on the north Spanish coast.

On Sunday 25 September we departed from this little paradise island on land-edged roads, travelling over the border into Portugal, passing through a town with crochet-attired statues and trees, with the most splendid views over the westerly coast and steep mountains to the east. We arrived at Buarcos Figueir da Foz, a large town with a very large beach, a hard walk through very soft sand to almost a perilous softly edged drop to the raucous ocean. Two nights here to catch up on electronic mail and recharge our travelling batteries.

Tuesday evening we park in Salir-do-Porto, with the mile or so wide cove view of the small town of Sao Martinho where sardines are expensive and the waiter is only polite after the umbrella almost takes us out in a gust of wind. A beautiful protected cove off the Atlantic, with board-walks around the dunes and small estuary. The air smells of lemon and aniseed and small gulls pose for the camera. The small cafe here provides us with cooling ice-cream and friendly locals.

The following day, we skip around Lisbon, utilising their toll roads and narrowly missing an unnecessary turn to the airport. A few times we whiz the wrong way but soon orientate ourselves with the sun. Head for the sun, you can always rely on our star to help you direct yourself where modern constructions confuse. After almost running out of fuel and thinking we are lost, we find, with relief, that we are where we planned. The daintily lit night-time of Vila Nova de Milfontes welcomes us.

The morning brings the sunny view from this miniscule headland, just wide enough for low cliffs to the south, road and car park, and dunes to the north, to co-exist. Our sliding door opens to reveal the tidal estuary bay, narrow beach,



PHOTO: Sarah Morris

lessening to nothing at high tide. Toddlers stagger like sea-legged sailors, mesmerised by the lapping waves. This type of meeting between sea and of this relentlessly heart-lifting land, contrasts exquisitely with estuary side beaches.

It's hot enough to quickly burn my newly sandalled feet by mid-day. We chat with English speakers from around the world. Checking the map, we excitedly see that we are less than an hour away from our hearts' desire of Odeceixe. We pack down after our relaxing day and can still hardly believe that we are 'doing it'. By early evening we find the tiny town of Odeceixe, sitting on the river border of this common holiday region. Discovering that there are three places here with this name, we decide to call them 'Town', 'Riverside' and 'Beachside' (to save confusion). Beachside is a 'Village' that is just a little bigger than a hamlet that cascades down the steep cliff to the beach. The steep road up to the car-park on the cliff-tops reveals a most awesome view, undoubtedly exaggerated by our anticipation, but with a sweeping river, cliffs, crashing Atlantic energy and a pleasantly sized beach, how could we not be whooping with excitement?

Sarah Morris

## Forest fires in Portugal

*Hull ECO asked Sarah if she had any thoughts on the recent fires in Portugal which have made the news.*

We didn't see any fires while we were there as it was past that time of year. However, it is a legal requirement for properties to have 50-metres clear of bush from around the property; the police will do checks. Firemen only get paid for call outs and have been known to start fires! When we were there the penalty for deliberate fire starting was five years, but the government was talking about increasing it.

Cork trees evolved to be fire retardant to a point. By clearing the land of dead wood/scrub the cork trees have a better chance of survival as the fires don't get so hot. We did quite a bit of clearing and you can see that the dead dry wood is perfect for fires. The cleared wood is burnt in a safe place. This seemed to be a waste of potential energy, to be honest. On the way back to the UK we went via some reservoirs (Portuguese: barragem), which looked pretty low, so I believe that there was a low level of rainfall during this last rainy season which wouldn't help. The amazingly fragrant Cistus plant

mentioned in previous articles is highly resinous and sparks when lit, which ignites surrounding plants.

Portugal is a bonfire waiting to happen. The fire can spread 'faster than a man can run' to quote one resident. Another local Englishman we met who lives in the north said that the summer is awful, 'there is smoke all over the place, you don't know where it is coming from, it stings your eyes and chokes your lungs'. He was planning on leaving during June, July and August.

Sarah Morris





# 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> If you are a national Friends of the Earth member you do need to pay separately to be a Local Group member.	
<b>Name</b>		I enclose:	
<b>Address</b>		Membership fee (£5 waged, £2 unwaged)	£
		Donation*	£
<b>Postcode</b>		<b>Total</b>	£
<b>Telephone</b>		Please make cheques payable to: <b>Hull Friends of the Earth</b> , and send to the Membership Secretary (address below)	
<b>Email</b>			
<b>I WANT TO PAY BY STANDING ORDER</b> 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

### \*We welcome your donations!

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

We 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).

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