



Hull

EC

Hull's environmental newsletter. Published by Hull Friends of the Earth www.hfoe.org.uk

April 2017 Issue 57

DIARY DATES

Tues 2 May, 7pm

HfOE meeting at Vintage Café, Chanterlands Avenue HU5 3TP

Sun 7 May, 12 noon

May Day at Pickering Road Community Orchard, Cranberry Way

Sat 20 May, 10.30am

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

Tues 6 June, 7pm

HfOE meeting at Vintage Café, Chanterlands Avenue HU5 3TP

Sun 2 July, 1pm

Open Gardens, YWT wildlife garden, Pearson Park

Tues 4 July, 7pm

HfOE meeting at Vintage Café, Chanterlands Avenue HU5 3TP

Sun 9 July, 1pm

Open Gardens, YWT wildlife garden, Pearson Park

Tues 1 August, 7pm

HfOE meeting at Vintage Café, Chanterlands Avenue HU5 3TP

In this issue

Diary Dates	1
ECO ChitChat	2
Plastics in our oceans	3
Friends of the Earth - where next?	4
Practical ideas for improving the air	5
Transition & Permaculture Hull news	6
Why we don't need fluoride...	6
Green Grants	7
Bees: what is the government hiding?	7
Government energy projections	7
Youth in Nature	8
Threat to Down2Earth garden	8
Local Green Groups news	9
Millenium Orchard, Beverley Parks	9
Health effects of Fukushima	10
Travels in a Van part 2-the arrival	11
Car industry must Ditch Dirty Diesel	11
Membership form & contact info	12



The sun is shining, the birds are singing and Hull FoE is having a **Spring Green Fair** at Kingston Youth Centre on **Saturday 20 May** from 10.30 am. We do hope we will see you all there! All the usual **Good Things** and more: veggie food, music, art activities, a wide range of interesting stalls and a chance to learn what the young people at the centre have been doing in their wildlife friendly garden.

Don't forget to bring a bag to collect 'wild bottles' on the way (see page 3). There is room for more stalls and you can be outside on the street front or in the garden if you like and you have a gazebo to bring.

If you have music, art or talks etc to offer contact Angela Needham; to book stalls (£15) contact Hilary Byers; contact details for both on back page.

ECO Chit Chat

Sorry!

Apologies if you got your January edition of ECO late, or by email if you wanted it in print, or vice versa! We think we've ironed out all the problems now; if you are still not getting things the way you want let Karen know straight away (details back page). Of course, we can only keep in touch with you if you make sure we have your up to date details.

Get those subs in!

Don't forget that **subs were due on 1st April**, so if you haven't paid yet please get them to Karen as soon as possible; see back page for details. They are still £5 if you are waged and £2 unwaged, which is what they have been for as long as anyone can remember! [If you can afford a bit extra we will always put it to good use of course!]

The Wilson Bed

At the time of writing we are still organising this, but thanks to all who have said they are interested in keeping it going; Hilary Byers will be in touch. If you'd like to be involved let her know.

Gardeners' Question Time came to Hull

On 23rd January the Growers Network hosted BBC Radio 4 Gardeners' Question Time to a full audience at the newly restored Middleton Hall. Interviewed were our very own Jeannie Webster of Rainbow Community Garden and Mark Cleaver of Rooted in Hull.

At the time of writing, you can still listen again on

www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b08bbjvn

Plant up your seed trays

There is still time to plant up seed trays and pots which will develop into plants by 20th May ready for the **Hull Green Fair**. By planting flower havens for beneficial bugs such as spotted lady beetles, assassin bugs and robber flies, we can reduce the population of unwanted pests such as slugs, aphids and mealy bugs. This not only helps create an attractive garden but also improves overall habitat, reducing the enemies of food crops.

It is easy to make seed-starting pots out of items destined for the recycling bins or compost pile. For example making posts from toilet paper tubes creates something that can be planted out as a

whole in the garden and will degrade in the soil as the plant matures.

Fish and Bexit

MARINET were quick off the mark and wrote to the Fisheries Minister the day after the EU referendum! They had put together a series of proposals suitable for the improvement of the management of British fisheries once we are in control of our own stocks. Not surprisingly, his civil servants weren't up to speed. They did not respond well to the evidence of current fishing catch quotas exceeding scientific advice and legal targets. MARINET are putting together a paper which they will forward to Defra for specific comment. www.marinet.org.uk

Eddie Brooks

We were very sorry to hear about the death of Eddie Brooks, founder of Recycling Unlimited. Eddie was helpful to Hull Friends of the Earth, providing us with somewhere to meet for many years, and supporting the Green Fair. Recycling Unlimited provides work and activities for people recovering from mental illness or needing support, in its workshops making garden furniture, its allotments, the City Farm and its 3 shops on Newland Avenue selling recycled goods.



'Blade' by Nayan Kulkarni (and workers from Siemens).

One of the first rotor blades, at 75m long it's **BIG!**

It and its partners should now be on display in the Siemens site and visible from the public footpath going round the edge of the Alexandra Dock site.

PHOTO: Shahab Razzaki

Plastic in our oceans

A couple of articles published recently highlighted the onslaught of plastic our oceans and beaches are facing. A recent survey of British beaches found that almost three-quarters of them were littered with tiny plastic "nurdles". Nurdles are small pellets of plastic, used in the manufacture of plastic products. These little balls can soak up chemical pollutants, and often get eaten by unwitting animals, leading to these pollutants making their way up the food chain to us.

A separate report highlighted further sources of ocean microplastics. Around 15% to 31% of plastic pollution was found to have come from primary microplastics, as opposed to the disintegration of larger pieces. Primary microplastics are such things as microbeads, capsules, pellets (eg nurdles), and fibres. Approximately two-thirds of this kind of marine pollution was found to have come from the abrasion of either synthetic textiles during washing, or tyres whilst driving.

Although the reports make for grim reading, as consumers there is much we can do to limit our impact on the ocean. A quick Google search on "Ways to Reduce Plastic Pollution" throws up a whole host of sites, each listing simple lifestyle changes you can make to help combat pollution: from saying no to products containing microbeads, to choosing natural-fibre clothing, and following the age-old mantra of Reduce, Recycle and Reuse.

Bring back bottle deposits

Meanwhile, in the UK we use a staggering 38.5 million single-use plastic bottles and a further 58 million cans **every day!** Only half of these are recycled, so it's no surprise that many of these end up on our beaches and in our oceans.

Plastic bottles take 450 years to break down, killing marine life, harming the coastal ecosystem and ruining our beaches.

Would you like to be able to return used drinks cans and bottles, and be given some cash back for your trouble? Well, **Deposit Return Systems (DRS)** already work well in Germany, the US and some Australian states, and there's strong support for DRS in Scotland. Such a system can reduce



Art installation in Ferens Art Gallery: 'Cove 2007-2017' by Alexander Duncan. At first sight this looks like a pile of pebbles but is in fact entirely made up of pieces of polyurethane foam which has been shaped by wave action and deposited on beaches around Britain. Most would have come from house insulation, floats or lifebuoys. The tiny fragments removed by erosion can easily be mistaken for food by sea creatures.

littering, increase recycling, and change behaviour. Like the carrier bag charge, it's a simple idea that can have an immediate effect.

Let's make this happen all over the UK! **Surfers Against Sewage** has set up a petition which they will take to Governments in London, Edinburgh, Cardiff and Belfast. Go to www.sas.org.uk/messageinabottle

Here's what we in Hull Friends of the Earth would like you to join us in doing:

- ▶ Take a bag with you to the Spring Green Fair on 20 May and pick up 'wild bottles' you see littering the streets on your way.
- ▶ When you arrive, join us in making a surprise artwork to illustrate why we should be using far fewer plastic bottles, and recycling the ones we do use.
- ▶ If you like to take a drink with you when you go out, take a reusable bottle to fill with tap water or other drinks.

Hilary Byers with info from Marinet, Marine Conservation Society and Surfers Against Sewage

STOP PRESS

We have just heard that the Government has published the long-awaited National Litter Strategy for England and we welcome the news that deposit return systems will be seriously assessed as a measure to protect the environment. An expert panel will be looking at evidence to support a successful scheme to add a small refundable deposit to plastic bottles.

Friends of the Earth—where next?

At Hull FoE's AGM on 4th April, Simon Bowens, Regional Campaign Co-ordinator at Friends of the Earth, provided an **overview of Friends of the Earth's Long Term Goals, Ethos and Campaigns**. Key points were:

- ▶ **FoE** has 150 local groups and 70-80 international groups.
- ▶ **Goal 2030** – next generation will experience a better environment and health with access to water, clean air, food and nature.
- ▶ **Ethos** – members are at the centre of everything by:
 - (i) welcoming everyone as part of the movement however large or small the interaction;
 - (ii) building community and networks;
 - (iii) empowering people to lead change;
 - (iv) improving diversity so FoE reflects the society we live in;
 - (v) growing and developing talent.
- ▶ **Methods** – speak truth to power.
- ▶ **Culture** that reflects and rewards our values
- ▶ **Change and adapt** to new trends eg social media

Campaigns

- ▶ **Fossil Free** – aim to stop UK production of fossil fuels in next five years. Start with fracking and working on coal. Public enquiry into open cast coal mining at Druridge Bay, Northumberland will be key.
- ▶ **Clean Air** – aim to stop exceeding limits in towns and cities; key cause is diesel vehicles.
- ▶ **Bee Cause** – continue Great British Bee Count. Keep raising awareness and monitoring action plans.
- ▶ **Climate Change** – Paris celebration: 50% countries ratified by November but now need to hold government to account to implement. Incompatible issues include 3rd runway at Heathrow. ERYC invest £280 million of pension fund in fossil fuels.
- ▶ **Act Local Think Global** – key message that works with grass roots.
- ▶ **Brexit must be green.**



Acting Local

Angela and Karen provided an overview of Hull FoE activity during 2016, and outlined current future plans for the group. Key points were:

- ▶ **Air Pollution** – Angela will continue to lead on this. We carried out monitoring in five locations, and
 - (i) Built relationship with David White, Environmental Health Officer at Hull City Council (David was present at the AGM);
 - (ii) Proposed clean air zone – River Hull, A63, Commercial Street, Humber – planting schemes – Wykeland Beal expressed interest;
 - (iii) Need to improve education and awareness;
 - (iv) Proposed ABP terminal for cruise ships needs watching and lobbying.
- ▶ **Green Fair** – successful green fair held at Kingston Youth Centre in November 2016.
- ▶ **Awareness Raising** – stalls at Open Gardens, Pearson Park and Community Orchard. Regular copies of ECO go out to members and on display in local libraries.
- ▶ **Anti-fracking** – we protested outside Barclays Bank.
- ▶ **Protecting green space** – we supported *Down to Earth* objecting to planning application.
- ▶ **Act Local Think Global** – Karen will lead on this.
- ▶ **TTIP** – Rohan will maintain a watching brief.

From Hull Friends of the Earth AGM Minutes

Practical ideas for improving the air

Hull Friends of the Earth is working with David White of Hull City Council, looking at practical actions we can take to improve air quality alongside Castle Street. This was identified in our air testing experiments as the worst area in the city for NO₂ pollution. (See Hull ECO, October 2016).

Action in the Fruit Market area

There is a proposal to establish a Clean Air Zone in the Fruit Market area, bounded by the Marina, the A63, the River Hull and the Humber estuary. Improvements would be done in stages in discussion with the Council and the developers.

Stage 1 might focus on the seating area outside the *Tasty* café on Humber Dock Street.

Here there are some areas of soil which need more protection from over-walking. We propose to plant aromatic creeping herbs which will smell nice if walked on. Notices would be erected to explain that we are cleaning the air, and a leaflet produced which tells people the bigger picture.

Stage 2 might be about working on traffic into the area. There are parking areas but very few cars can get in now. There is the need for an increased bus service and the idea for this would be a small electric circular bus from Paragon, linking to a suitable car park and the Deep.

The 3rd Stage could be two muddy areas in the old dry dock each side of the new performance area, next to the C4DI office development. We need to find out what plans developers Wykeland Beal have for them, but we believe they will be very supportive and keen. There are stepped walls round the area which suggest vertical planting, which could be of interest to permaculture growers. Reed beds could be possible for the lowest level; there is a good market for selling reeds. The important thing is to incorporate air and maybe water detoxifying and oxygen increasing plants, to further the aim of creating a clean air zone. Again there would be information boards explaining the nature of the plants.

There is also a cycle hub in this area next to the *Nibbles* café, and we might involve Blanket Row at this stage too.

It is very important that we talk to residents in the whole area to see what other ideas they may have. If we were to plant in tubs, we would need to find local people who wanted to be involved.

Awareness raising in the Great Thornton Street area

We are also looking further along the A63 at Adelaide school and the Thornton Estate off Anlaby Road. This is primarily a pilot study for raising the awareness of children and their parents. We could redo pollution tests in the areas; these would be likely to demonstrate that the area is within legal limits but these limits are too high. We can look with local people at what can be done to make the air safer for children etc. There is the opportunity to involve community radio.

Proposed cruise terminal

Longer term we want to try to enter into discussions with ABP (Associated British Ports). If there is to be cruise port it needs to provide electrical plug-in sites, so that ships don't need to run their engines in port. This is easier done if they are installed from the start.

Meanwhile we will be generally raising awareness of air pollution, its causes and cures, using quizzes, leaflets, posters etc at a variety of different venues.

Angela Needham



Sites in the Fruit Market where planting can help to clean the air



Sat 29 and Sun 30 April. Introduction to Permaculture 2-day course starts. See Lausanne for more information.

The Permaculture Association has organised a **Yorkshire Permaculture Gathering** for the weekend of **27/28 May 2017** starting 10.00am Saturday and finishing 5.00pm Sunday. It will be held at **Paddock Farm**, Parkgate Road, West Slaithwaite, HD7 5XA. **For more information, a list of the suggested themes and to book** on the gathering: <https://www.permaculture.org.uk/noticeboard/event/convergence/yorkshire-permaculture-gathering>

Sun 25 June, Willow Weaving. One-day course taught by 'Wild Harvest' at Constable Street allotment. You will learn at least 3 different types of weaving and bring home something you have made. Approx £20 to £25. More details from Lausanne.

Trips over the summer to places of interest: join Transition and Permaculture Hull to be sure of hearing all about them.

Details of all these from Lausanne:

lausannet@yahoo.co.uk; 01482 228637

Or www.transitionhull.co.uk

Hilary with info from Jenny and Lausanne

We wish Jenny a speedy recovery.

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

Why we don't need fluoride in our water

Hull City Council has debated whether to add fluoride to the water supply and has ordered a feasibility study from Yorkshire Water. Among the things they will be looking at is where new units [sheds] could be created to add fluoride so that Hull is fluoridated and not lots of the East Riding too. In reality this will make it easier for the East Riding to give the nod, since some of their residents will be affected close to Hull.

The issue will be reported back to the Council at some stage and debated; perhaps shelved, more likely voted forwards — unless enough councillors are swayed against it. So people should write in to their Ward Councillors.

Alan Johnson MP and other supporters of fluoridation have some problems. The two most famous fluoride reports don't say fluoride is categorically good for teeth, or for children's teeth, for toddlers' teeth, or for poorer children's teeth. But all that, and more, he and his panel of experts were saying at his recent Fluoride Conversation at Hull University.

On Radio Humberside, he said fluoride is used across the world and that of course it's not toxic! In my piece I said how impressed I was that he'd memorised all the places around the world that do fluoridate — however that was only 5% of world population! And most of those are in America. All other countries have made the same massive strides in dental health — but most have formally rejected fluoridation! As for toxicity, the LD50 for the acid likely to be used to fluoridate, HFSA, is 430mg / kg for rats. LD50 is a standard measure for toxicity and means the Lethal Dose for 50% of the subjects. For example, if I'm

equally susceptible, an ounce of it taken at once would likely kill me.

The two key reports:

The York Review (York CRD, 2000) looked at over 700 studies on fluoridated water supplies. In brief, it said the evidence isn't good enough to conclude that fluoridation works. That's 17 years ago now.

The Cochrane Report (2015) looked at 20 fluoridation studies — these showed substantial benefit for children. However, they make sure to tell us that 70% of those studies happened pre-1975 and deliberately note: "These results are based predominantly on old studies and may not be applicable today." This is important because over **all** this time, dental health has **improved everywhere** — the world, Europe's countries, our region, and **Hull** — **regardless** of whether fluoridation takes place or not. 10% of Britain is fluoridated, but we get major dental improvement everywhere. Fluoridating water today is unnecessary.

What the two scientific reviews say must be respected before proper debate can take place. There were no dissenting scientists at the 'Conversation'. Prof Stephen Peckham is one, at the University of Kent, and his recent research shows a link between a high incidence of hypothyroidism in a fluoridated area (West Midlands), compared to a non-fluoridated area (Manchester). This is the first population level study looking at this and recommends reducing fluoride exposure from the current 1mg/L.

Alan Johnson quoted the 44% figure from 2012 for 5 year olds suffering a cavity or more. 2015 figures are on the

Public Health England website. The 2015 Hull figures are 37.8% for 5 year olds with one or more cavities. This also means that 62.2% of five-year olds in Hull have no tooth decay whatsoever! In the East Riding 76.9% of five year-olds have no tooth decay and they drink the same non-fluoridated water from the same reservoirs. The difference between the figures is not because of lack of fluoride! It's because of poorer diets, higher sugar consumption and lower levels of oral hygiene, all associated with higher-poverty areas such as Hull.

Hospital dental extractions get mentioned too. The figures are out across the country. In our region, Hull fares well. The Hull Dental Needs document gives figures for Hull and comparable towns (JSNA Hull p.53) for 0-19 years hospital admissions for teeth extraction. According to their own figures, Wolverhampton (pop. 250k) has over twice the number of extractions as Hull per 100,000 population. Wolverhampton has been fluoridated since the 1960s.

Dental health is improving everywhere, including in Hull. Regular dental hygiene, better diets, less exposure to sugar, will all help. There isn't good enough evidence today that fluoridation is effective.

Martin Deane

More at <https://martindeane.wordpress.com/2017/04/01/what-the-fluoride-conversation-wont-tell-you/>

Wed 17 May 2017: Joy Warren to talk on The Dangers of Fluoride (special focus on Hull plans to fluoridate the water).

Walton St Club, Walton St, Hull HU3 6JR
Start: 7.30 pm £5 waged/£3 unwaged/
donation or whatever you can manage



Greggs Foundation's Environmental Grants Scheme

Grants of up to £2,000 are available for projects that deliver a real benefit to the environment, using money from the 5p levy on carrier bag sales. Priority will be given to projects which include one or more of the following:

- ▶ Improving the local environment.
- ▶ Insuring involvement of local communities.
- ▶ Delivering a sustainable and measurable difference.
- ▶ Supporting people in need.

The funding can be used to cover the purchase of equipment, sessional salary costs, purchase of trees/plants, small capital projects and learning activities. The Greggs Foundation is also interested in new approaches and innovative ideas as well as sustainable approaches to supporting local environments. Not-for-profit organisations with a turnover of £300,000 or less as well as schools in England, Scotland and Wales can apply. Organisations that are based near Greggs shops will be given priority.



The deadline for applications is **24 June 2017**
www.greggsfoundation.org.uk/environment-grant

Growing a Greener Britain Small Grants Programme

Growing a Greener Britain, a registered charity, is providing grants to help fund community projects in publicly-owned parks and open spaces across Britain. Constituted community groups in Great Britain can apply for grants of up to £1,000 for projects which transform green spaces in Great Britain.

These include improvements or modifications to publicly-accessible parks, gardens, cemeteries, green open spaces, state school grounds or privately owned grounds that encourage the public to enter and enjoy them free of charge, including some university grounds.

Eligible works can be: creating wildlife areas and ponds, improvement of disabled access, making an area safer or more family-friendly, environmental and biodiversity management, education projects, training or employment projects which offer opportunities for young people.



Applications are accepted at any time.
www.growingagreenerbritain.org./small-grant-programme

Bees—what have the government got to hide?

Earlier this year the National Farmers' Union (NFU) put in a new application to use banned bee-harming pesticides called NEONICOTINOIDS in our fields.

And if that's not bad enough for our bees, the government is now keeping the details of the application a secret.

The secrets don't end there. Pesticide companies Bayer and Syngenta are also refusing to publish a report which looks at the impacts of neonics when used on oilseed rape crops. **What are they hiding?**

All this secrecy is unacceptable and it's time

our Government stood up for our bees – by refusing the NFU's application and supporting a full and permanent ban on bee harming pesticides.

We urgently need to convince our MPs to stand up for bees.

Do you have a minute to email your MP?

Go to:
www.act.foe.co.uk/act/ask-your-mp-back-ban



Emi Murphy
and the Friends of the Earth
Bee Cause team

Government energy projections

The UK government has published its energy and emissions projections to 2035. It incorporates new assumptions about the price of fossil fuels, CO₂ emissions and electricity generating technologies.

One particularly consequential change is that *renewables are much cheaper than expected*. A November BEIS report cut the cost of wind and solar power by 15-30%, both now and in the future.

Nuclear generation is now seen as falling in the early 2020s, although they say that it could be 'picking up again later in the decade'. In 2024, BEIS expects nuclear to be generating 34 terawatt hours (TWh) of electricity, down from 44TWh projected in 2015 and 67TWh in 2014, in total a reduction of around 50%, with the shortfall persisting until the late 2020s. This reflects ongoing delays to the UK's new nuclear programme and the retirement of old reactors.

<https://www.carbonbrief.org/analysis-dramatic-shift-uk-government-outlook-gas-clean-energy>

from Dr Paul Dorfman

The Energy Institute, University College, London
<http://www.nuclearconsult.com/>



Lord Prescott tells us about his involvement in 1997 Kyoto Agreement and why it is still relevant.



Impressive 'bug hotel' made by YOUTH IN NATURE



Making garden furniture from split logs



Rohan investigates a pond in Loglands

YOUTH IN NATURE

Wednesday 11 April 2017 saw the official launch of Youth in Nature, a project to connect young people with the natural world and get them involved in environmental activities. The launch took place at Loglands, a wildlife area on the north eastern edge of the city.

Youth in Nature has an impressive list of supporting organisations including Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, Probe (Hull) Ltd, Child Dynamix, Environmental & Management Solutions Ltd, and the East Hull Community Farm, and objectives include 'improving life skills and employability' and 'creating active citizens' as well as having fun in the outdoors. The young people presented guest speaker Lord Prescott with a many-roomed 'bug hotel' for his garden in Salthouse Road.

Youth in Nature are looking to extend their activities beyond east Hull and came to our November Green Fair; we hope they will be at the spring one too. It would be nice to see ways in which our adult 'green' groups could get involved in working with Youth in Nature, learning from them as well as sharing skills.

It was the first time I had been to Loglands and I was in good company. Lord Prescott confessed that he had not been before either, even though it is less than a mile from his home. It used to be a Council tree nursery years ago, and the trees have now developed into woodland. There is the prospect of it becoming an official Local Nature Reserve. The site is reached from East Carr Road, off Salthouse Road and I'm assured it is open to the public all the time. I would recommend it as somewhere for a walk.

Hilary

PHOTOS: Hilary Byers

Threat to future of *Down 2 Earth* herb garden

Community garden group Down 2 Earth were shocked to find out in February at very short notice that they could lose the site off Salmon Grove where they and their volunteers had been working for months to transform an area of overgrown land into a herb garden. The University proposes to turn the site into an extension to a car park. The proposal formed part of a much bigger planning application to build student flats elsewhere on the campus, which was why the car park plans had been overlooked.

Bryony and Hilary spoke at the Planning Committee against the change of use of the land, pointing out, among other things, that the proposal went against the Council's Open Space and Conservation policies and the University's own policies for encouraging sustainable travel. However, the planning application was approved.

The group has been offered an alternative site, but this has no security of tenure and there are plans by the University to sell the land off in five years' time. For the

group to obtain grants they realistically need at least a seven year lease.

The Down 2 Earth Trustees are considering the way forward. They will want to maintain a positive working relationship with the university if possible, especially as they wish to support research into herbal medicines. Others in the 'green' community will continue to help and support Down 2 Earth.

Hilary, with information from Down 2 Earth and Karen Wood.

Local Green Groups news and events

Hope you are enjoying all the events in this event-packed year of culture (If you are quick off the mark in getting your tickets!) Spare some time for the activities organised by our green groups.

Open space off Jack Kaye Walk (rear of Goddard Avenue)

There are proposals to form allotments on part of this land. However, it is much used for dog-walking and informal play in an otherwise built-up area. A meeting with Councillors is being held at **3.30pm on Thursday 20 April at the Avenues Centre** (the old school, former Adult Education Centre) on Park Avenue.

Stargazing & bat walk in Pearson Park

Friends of Pearson Park are organising a stargazing & bat walk event in the park with astronomy groups including Blackburn Leisure Astronomy on **Tuesday 25 April**.

If you would like to join the bat walk, meet at the Bowling Pavilion from 7.30 Wpm. Bat walk starts 8.30 pm. If you just want to see stars, join the Astronomers at approximately 8.30 pm. Open to all.

Tidying up in Oppy Wood

This year is the centenary of the Battle of Oppy Wood in Belgium where many Hull men died during the 1st World War.

An area of woodland between Orchard Park and Cottingham was planted to remember them and a clean up will be taking place **from 10am on Wed 26th April**, and again on **Wed 3rd May** after which children from 3 schools will do planting and take part in a short service.

Access is from Dane Park Road, HU6 9AJ. Come and join us; tools provided and plenty of tea and coffee; wear stout boots.

May Day on Sun 7 May, 12 noon at Pickering Road Community Orchard

Note the date. This popular family event gets better every year, with maypole dancing, stalls and you can picnic under the may blossom. Please park on Pickering Road and walk down Cranberry Way to the allotments at the end where you will be directed to the orchard.

Contact Yvette on 07922 266749 or the Pickering Road Community Orchard Facebook page if you want a stall.

Ring Hilary (back page) if you can help on the HFoE stall.

The Avenues Open Gardens on Sun 2 and 9 July

Hull FoE has a stall each Sunday in the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust's Wildlife Garden in Pearson Park. Come and see us from 1pm; help if you can.

There are always lots of interesting gardens to see, and this year there will be some guided walks round the Avenues.

Tickets £3 from any of the gardens.

Harvest Festival on Sat 9 September, 11am to 3pm

Now the street works in the city centre are nearly done we should have a venue soon for this; keep in touch via www.growersnetwork.org.uk

Start sowing those veg! Contact the network for news of veg growing skill shares.

Cornucopia Festival Fri 22 to 24 September

Another festival that gets better every year. Held in the grounds of Burton Constable Hall, it includes green groups stalls and good veggie food.

All the details and tickets now on sale on www.cornucopiafestival.co.uk



Last ECO we mentioned the **Millennium Orchard at Beverley Parks**, which is near Old Hall Farm off Shepherd Lane, Long Lane, 1 1/2 miles from Beverley [HU17 0RN or grid ref TA 042370]. The site, which is open to the public, is well worth a visit, and should be looking at its best around now with trees in blossom. Founded by the WI, it specialises in some unusual local varieties of apples such as Hornsea Herring



and Beverley Pippin. There is a nature reserve next to the orchard and a public footpath/bridleway from Beverley, with parking near the site. The grass is maintained by ERYC and Beverley Beekeepers maintain hives, but **it is in need of more volunteers** to give some occasional help maintaining the trees. The orchard is quite small and it should not be an onerous task. Contact Hilary Hamer, Food4Hull, on 07939 569347.

Health effects of Fukushima

Are there any health consequences resulting from the radioactive fallout from the accident in 2011 at Fukushima Daiichi?

It is a measure of the cover-up in Japan that readers of a Friends of the Earth publication in Hull are reliant on a blog, run by a French man living in Japan, to inform them of these health effects. Scientific studies have been undertaken in Japan on birds, insects, monkeys and livestock, showing deformities and genetic abnormalities, poor survival rates, lowered reproduction, and of course premature death, but these studies are not reported in the British media.

Common sense tells us that if these effects are being found in creatures that have a much shorter life span than humans, then sooner or later, health effects are going to appear also in humans. And of course, the first health effect (though by no means the only one) is already showing itself. There are now 131 confirmed cases of childhood thyroid cancer among 400,000 children in Fukushima prefecture. This is a disease that occurs under normal conditions in about 1 in a million children. The rate in Fukushima Prefecture is thus about 200 times normal. Not twice, which would already be worrying, not ten times, but *two hundred times the normal rate*. According to the Japanese government and the nuclear lobby, this colossal increase can be explained by better screening. Like much of the propaganda about Fukushima, and of course Chernobyl, it is only believable because a lie repeated often enough becomes the truth.

We really need our wits about us. So let us look at the results of scientific studies on some animal species in Fukushima Prefecture. I would invite readers to look at the blog themselves. (Go to this site and press the English flag in the right hand column <http://www.fukushima-blog.com/2016/09/fukushima-consequences-de-la-radioactive-sur-la-faune.html>)

A picture is worth a thousand words. You will see a small pretty yellow bird, dead, and then two pictures of its imprint on radiosensitive paper,

showing first the external radiation in its feathers, and then its internal radiation. No surprise then that Timothy Mousseau, from the University of Carolina, who has published endless research about the negative impacts on birds and other fauna around Chernobyl, has discovered 15 species of bird in the Fukushima Prefecture decreasing in numbers every year with a 30% survival rate.

Another team, led by Naoki Murase, has studied a species of hawk. Raptors

HOW LONG BEFORE WE ALL STAND UP TO THE NUCLEAR LOBBY AND THE GOVERNMENTS OF NUCLEARISED COUNTRIES?

are of special interest because they occupy a position at the head of a long food chain and therefore receive the accumulated radioactivity of all the species below them in that chain. The hawks' reproductive capacity was found to correlate with the levels of radiation found immediately under their nest. Swallow nests have been measured in the Prefecture with levels of 1.4 million becquerels per kg.

In 2012 the first scientific evidence of damage to a living organism was published in the journal *Nature*. Chiyo Nohara led the team and she died aged 60 in 2015, from a heart condition that was very likely caused by radiation. (See her obituary at http://www.i-sis.org.uk/Honouring_the_Life_and_Work_of_Chiyo_Nohara.php) The team's findings showed physiological and genetic damage to butterflies that hatched following the radioactive fallout in 2011, but more seriously, these anomalies were worse in the second and third

generation of butterflies. This confirms work done in the Chernobyl territories that found that anomalies worsened over at least 22 generations in voles (Goncharova and Ryabokon). The implications for the health of human beings exposed to radiation is that their own children, grandchildren and beyond will be affected by their exposure. This phenomenon has of course already been shown in the children and grandchildren of veterans of nuclear weapons testing. (<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/britains-nuclear-test-veterans-victims-4460976>)

Other scientific studies in Fukushima Prefecture show evidence of damage to aphid populations (10% have abnormalities), to monkeys (altered blood chemistry correlating with levels of caesium-137 in the body) and damage to cattle and horses (depigmentation).

How long before we all stand up to the nuclear lobby and the governments of nuclearised countries? The economic arguments against nuclear power have been made. The "debate" about the cause of the health effects around Chernobyl and Fukushima is kept alive (just as the "debate" about smoking-related cancer was kept alive for three decades by the tobacco companies) because to admit the truth would finish off the nuclear industry for ever.

Susie Greaves

Susie says: "It may seem incredible, but if you publish this, you will be helping the people of Japan, who are desperate for any coverage anywhere in the world. The population is encouraged (or bullied) into returning to evacuated areas that have supposedly been decontaminated. The misinformation and the fear of punishment leaves people powerless."

TRAVELS IN A VAN

Part 2 - The arrival

In January's edition of ECO Sarah told us about leaving behind her life in Hull and setting off with her husband Paul in a converted 7.5 ton van to see the world. This, the second instalment of their story, sees them arrive in Santander, Northern Spain.



PHOTO: Sarah Morris

Slowly the ferry docked in this new land, flown over by millions, touched by relatively few. Quicker than anticipated, we're through customs and onto the main road heading west to our first planned stop.

What really struck me at first was the Pampas Grass; it is everywhere like a weed, but still looks tall and elegant in this sunnier climate. Crossing high bridges, often with terrifyingly high views to rivers below, the road sweeps around great mountains and we glimpse beaches that we hope to see again. Within an hour, our first stop is a beautiful broad, shallow estuary town, San Vicente De Baquera, the river winding away into the mountains with low picturesque bridges joining the land. An old fort to cycle up, a hill to wheel down.

The following day, Thursday 22nd September, we arrive at Foz for a night. A now out of season, slightly run down tourist town; a mile away almost our own beach of white sands and dunes. We

stand facing north, reliving our journey from Britain across the Bay of Biscay, still not quite believing that we are here, while the newly retired women jog past with polite Spanish greetings.

Back on the road, passing more Eucalyptus plantations, not expecting them to cover the hillsides for all our journey, I miss what I do not see. Only in the high mountain pass to the east of Spain do we see what looks like more indigenous landscapes.

We arrived for two nights on Friday 23rd at Illa de Arousa, a bridged island in an outstanding, truly broad estuary, where scallops are farmed on rafts...an area where the Spanish holiday and it feels authentic. After meeting the scallop farmers and their friends in the restaurant, we walk home; island edge paths guarantee our return, accompanied by smells of fragrant pine and eucalyptus and dogs that take themselves for moonlit walks. The board-walk edged estuary, where lycra clad older men ski

on roller blades and young men windsurf, all in front of this free camper-van site. The walk guides us to cycle around the tiny island of many coves.

Kale is the staple of most gardens, with wild fennel, mint and hogweed seeds to flavour the food; heather and gorse flavour our eyes. Bracken and bramble fill the spaces, while palms and vines decorate our surroundings. There is a pink lily-like flower with no leaf that I must research and the first yucca that I have seen in flower; aloe as tall as a human; reeds as tall as a town house; sparkling sand; fish jumping out of mercury-like, evening-sun-pink waters; the mountains black-blue far to the east.

With so much new colour to weave my sight into words I forget myself, and see that there is no more room here this time, and we have not yet even reached our destination. Then I will save the future threads for next time.

Sarah J Morris

Tell the car industry to *Ditch Dirty Diesel*

You might have bought a diesel car in good faith, like many other people concerned about the environment. And why wouldn't you! They were hailed as the green choice, the solution to our petrol and CO₂ problems.

But we now know that we were all misled and lied to. Car makers manipulated industry emissions tests and sold us diesel cars that emit far more toxic fumes than they are supposed to. As a result, they have made air pollution worse.

All the while our cities are failing to meet air quality standards. Air pollution affects us all: 8 out of 10 people in the UK live in cities and air pollution can contribute to serious conditions like heart disease and asthma.

Electric cars are happening—they're not a futuristic pipe dream. Most car makers already have at least one electric model in their range. Infrastructure like charging points is becoming more widespread. And most models can now also do long distances between charges.

Right now, they're not cheap. But as more people want electric cars, the costs will also come down. So, in order to feed that demand, car brands need to make a deliberate switch and invest their resources into the technology to make great electric cars.

Tell the car companies to ditch diesel and switch to 100% electric:

<https://secure.greenpeace.org.uk/carmakers-ditch-diesel>



Hull Friends of the Earth

HULL FOE MEMBERSHIP

I wish to become a member of Hull FoE <input type="checkbox"/> I wish to renew my Hull FoE membership <input type="checkbox"/>		Payment Please note: subs are due by 1 April each year If you are a national Friends of the Earth member you do need to pay separately to be a Local Group member.	
Name		I 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

*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).

External Coordinator:	Lee-ann Williams, 166 Meadowbank Road, Hull HU3 6XP	Tel: 07583 194313 Email: leeannwilliams6@gmail.com
Internal Coordinator:	Angela Needham, 124 Etherington Road, Hull HU6 7JP	Tel: 07737 249461 Email: angelaneedham88@gmail.com
Membership Secretary & ECO distribution:	Karen Wood, 187 Sutton Road, Hull HU6 7DP	Tel: 07531 191867 mouett@mouett.karoo.co.uk
ECO Editor:	Hilary Byers, 170 Victoria Avenue, Hull HU5 3DY	Tel: 01482 445747 Email: hilary@amskaya.karoo.co.uk