

## DIARY DATES

### Thurs 6 February 7pm

HFoE meeting at Blondes Vegan café, 106 King Street, Cottingham HU16 5QE

### Thurs 5 March 7pm

HFoE meeting at Blondes Vegan café, 106 King Street, Cottingham HU16 5QE

### Sat 7 March 10.30-3

Seed Swap, Jubilee Central, King Edward Street, HU1 3SQ

### Thurs 2 April 7pm

HFoE meeting at Blondes Vegan café, 106 King Street, Cottingham HU16 5QE

**ECO deadline.** Articles for next issue to Hilary by this date please.

### Sun 3 May, noon

**May Day** at Pickering Road Community Orchard, Cranberry Way HU4 7AQ (Park on Pickering Road)

### Thurs 7 May 7pm

HFoE meeting at Blondes Vegan Cafe, 106 King Street, Cottingham HU16 5QE

## Campaigners call for Climate Action at County Hall



Climate demonstrators outside County Hall, dressed for a 'crime scene'. PHOTO: Nikki Longbottom

**Hull Extinction Rebellion, Hull Friends of the Earth and others gathered outside County Hall during a meeting of the East Riding County Council on Wednesday 8 January 2020 to call on the Council (literally call on them through a megaphone) to declare a Climate Emergency.**

An attempt in June to get the Council to declare an emergency was thrown out (See ECO of July 2019). The County Council has limited itself to supporting the government's National Policy to commit to net zero emissions of greenhouse gases by 2050 and is looking at how the Council can limit its own emissions. Declaring a Climate Emergency would require the more radical step of influencing other people's activities (such as farmers and industrialists) with an overall aim of making the East Riding carbon neutral by 2030.

Declaring an Emergency, therefore, is only the first step, and needs to be

quickly followed up by a plan of action. Meanwhile, the Council's Environmental Policy can be seen on [www.eastriding.gov.uk/environment/sustainable-environment/climate-change](http://www.eastriding.gov.uk/environment/sustainable-environment/climate-change)

Hull City Council declared a Climate Emergency in March 2019. A copy of the declaration can be seen on [www.hull.gov.uk/environment/environment/environment-and-climate-change](http://www.hull.gov.uk/environment/environment/environment-and-climate-change). The Council is currently writing a 2030 Carbon Neutral Strategy and Action Plan to meet the challenge faced by the Council and City from climate change and this will replace the current 2010-2020 Strategy.

The Council's website says the new strategy will be considered by the Council's Cabinet in February 2020 and a copy of the agreed document will be placed on the website soon after. See also petition page 8.

**Hilary Byers**

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# ECO Chit Chat

## Happy New Year from Hull Friends of the Earth!

*Hope you enjoy our bumper edition of Hull Eco!*

At our Hull FOE meeting on 2 January we agreed to focus this year on **Climate Change and the related Trees Campaign**. Under Climate Change we shall be joining with other groups to press the East Riding Council to declare a Climate Emergency, while continuing to track and contribute to Hull Council's Action Plan. Regarding trees, we agreed it is just as important to protect existing trees as plant new ones.

We hope to do a **litter pick**. We'll show the film **Burned** shining a light on the shocking truth about biofuels used to generate our electricity. More information about these events in April's Eco. We'll have stalls at events when we have enough people to man them. Offer to help, it's a good way to get to know us! Let us know about any events you are organising. And, of course, there will be our very popular **Green Fair**; this year it's on **provisionally** Saturday 21 November at Cottingham Civic Hall; we'll be taking bookings for stalls from August.

**Keep up to date between ECOS; join Hull Friends of the Earth, details on the back page.**



### More Dates for Your Diary

Here are some future events we know about. Others are mentioned throughout this Eco.

**Sun 3 May, noon:** Celebrate May Day at Pickering Road Community Orchard. Dancing round the maypole, picnicking among the blossoms, stalls.

**Sun 5 and 12 July:** Open Gardens in the Avenues, Hull.

**Fri 11 to Sun 20 September:** Heritage Open Days. Did you know you can open your Community Green Space as well as buildings? **Get in touch with Chris Netherwood before the end of January to get in the brochure.**

Chris.netherwood@outlook.com., 01482 653657



### Tree Planting

*One Hull of a Forest* will be planting trees on **Sat 1 Feb and Sun 2 Feb 2020 from 9.00 am to 3.30pm** at Graceland Lodge, Holderness Country Park, Tunstall.

They are looking for volunteers to plant 3000 saplings over two days. Let them know if you want to help so they can monitor numbers:

Day 1:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1020156205051324/>;

Day 2:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/2883187698359047/>

Lifts might be available.

Info from Dr Andrew Steel [andrew.steel@pattfoundation.org](mailto:andrew.steel@pattfoundation.org)



### Plastic tree guards— who needs them?

When Hull FOE does litter picks in woodland we always find lots of shards of plastic from old tree guards. If we are going to be planting lots more trees, let's think twice about whether we really need tree guards. Young trees are usually planted fairly densely and some thinning, happening naturally or deliberately, is likely to be needed. We could probably live with some of the trees being eaten by wildlife.



### Green energy

Consumer champions **Which?** have released a new report that looks into the green claims that a lot of energy companies make. Out of about forty suppliers **they only found two to be genuinely green**. So if you want to be confident you're helping increase the amount of new renewable electricity generated it's a choice between **Ecotricity** and **Good Energy**.

<https://www.which.co.uk/news/2019/09/how-green-is-your-energy-tariff/>

from Jenny Parsons, Transition & Permaculture Hull



### Campaigners celebrate an end to fracking

On 2 November 2019 the government announced a moratorium on fracking, meaning the industry is effectively over in the UK for the foreseeable future. Frack Free United said:

"This a very welcome announcement from the government. We will certainly be raising a glass to anti-fracking campaigners everywhere."

It is a really great step in the right direction. We will, however, be remaining vigilant and believe all forms of extreme fossil fuel extraction should be included in this de facto ban. Our call has always been for an immediate halt to fracking AND associated methods of unconventional oil and gas extraction in the UK, such as coal bed methane and acidisation".

In this area, Third Energy has abandoned attempts to get permission to frack in North Yorkshire. But Rathlin has resumed drilling for oil at West Newton.

**More information:** [www.share-talk.com/west-newton-community-liaison-committee](http://www.share-talk.com/west-newton-community-liaison-committee), or from Harry Clark, [mid.holdernessari@gmail.com](mailto:mid.holdernessari@gmail.com)

# Tree planting—why, where and can it be done?

About the only thing all political parties were agreed on at the recent election was the need to plant more trees. Here we have two perspectives on why it's needed, where it should take place, and whether the ambitious aims can be met.

## Tree planting—the Forestry Commission view

Climate science is complex, and it is easier – at least in the UK – for people to agree on the need for action to combat climate change than to agree on the precise steps we ought to take. One thing pretty much everyone will agree on is that we need to plant more trees. Now that we are committed in law to net zero emissions by 2050, the imperative of tree planting has only got more urgent. The Committee on Climate Change are very clear that the current approach to land use is not sustainable, and we should be aiming for around 30,000 hectares of new woodland in the UK every year – nearly a million hectares by 2050. If it were all in one place (which of course it won't be) that would mean a new forest the size of Norfolk and Suffolk together.

As Chief Executive of the Forestry Commission, I am excited about this. Growing trees is our business, and trees make a proven, cost-effective contribution to tackling climate change. But I'm also a bit wary. Not just because afforestation on a large scale is incredibly hard to deliver, and will involve really difficult choices about land use change right up and down the country. But also because trees are not just about carbon, and carbon is not just about trees. Even on the scale the Committee

on Climate Change wants to see, planting trees can only make a limited contribution to net zero – by 2050, the new trees would absorb perhaps 10% of residual emissions if all other reduction measures are implemented. **There is only so much tree planting we can do across the UK, so it's crucial that emissions are cut across the whole economy** At the same time, it's vital to recognise that the benefits of forests are wider, and even longer term.

We must think about what we produce from our land. As a nation we produce less food than we eat, and far less timber than we use. In fact we import about 80% of our timber. And we should be using more timber, not less. **Timber used in construction locks up carbon for the life of the building, and is far better from an emissions perspective than concrete or other materials.** We'll never be self-sufficient, but while there are many important, different landscapes and habitats we must protect and restore, and rewilding too has a role to play in some areas, in general we should be using our land to produce what we can in a sustainable way. **It is not a solution to the climate crisis if we focus only on storing carbon on our own land while we import more and more food and timber from other countries.** So we should be planting productive forests – well-designed,



diverse woodlands, rich in wildlife and right for the soil and the landscape in each different place – which will help us well beyond the 2050 target date.

The hard land use choices we as a country, and landowners as individuals, are going to have to make in the coming years if we are serious about achieving net zero, are bound to be guided partly by familiar considerations of financial return. But we should also be guided by new ways of reckoning the costs and benefits, by the principles and methodologies of natural capital. Cropland? Pasture? Peatland? Forest? What's best for the land will vary greatly from place to place, and we need to be thinking not just about cash or carbon emissions, but also about production of food or timber or biomass, and about biodiversity, water quality, flood management, air quality, recreation and public health.

## ...and here from Friends of the Earth:

### Finding the land to double tree cover—FOE's view

Is there really space in the UK to double tree cover? And where's best to grow all those trees?

Friends of the Earth wants to double UK woodland cover by 2045—to tackle the climate emergency and make more space for nature. Increasing tree cover is

an essential part of a range of measures needed to fight climate change – including eating less and better meat and dairy, which itself will free up more land for trees and woodlands. But is there really space in the UK to double tree cover? And where's best to grow all those trees – whether through deliberate planting schemes or allowing natural regeneration? It's an important set of questions.

In finding the best land for afforestation, there are some important trade-offs to consider. While woodland currently covers 13% of the UK, approximately 70% of the UK is farmland. It's clear that if we're going to double tree cover, some of this farmland will need to be converted into woodland. (Of the remaining 17%, less than 10% is urban, and the rest comprises other habitats like mountains, moorlands and wetlands which are often too high, too acidic and too wet

*continued on page 4*



*Tree planting - why, where, and can it be done? FoE's view. continued from page 3*

for many trees). Friends of the Earth has previously modelled possible scenarios for future land use change in our Land Use Calculator, which draws upon a wide range of academic studies.

This shows that if we continue to shift our diets to eating less and better meat and dairy, we'll be able to free up a lot of land that's currently used for pasture, especially low-grade rough pasture and cropland that's used for livestock feed.

**We don't want to grow lots of trees in places that are more valuable for growing food crops for direct human consumption.** Doing so could reduce food production in the UK, increase food imports and drive deforestation overseas. So, we need to protect arable cropland wherever possible, and prioritise its use for growing crops for direct human consumption (rather than for biofuels or animal feed).

At the same time, we'd also like to see the restoration of species-rich meadows and grasslands, many of which have been

lost over the past century as a result of agricultural intensification. We envisage a smaller livestock population being grazed on higher-quality, more species-rich pasture; fewer intensive pig and poultry mega-farms; and more mixed farms, where livestock is used to improve the fertility and soil carbon content of arable land. However, factoring this into our modelling has proved difficult, so we'll be seeking more data and others' views on this.

To assess where might be best to grow more trees, we used a number of publicly-available mapping data sets and used GIS (Geographic Information Systems) software to combine and analyse them. Below are our headline findings which demonstrate the potential to double tree cover in England. We are similarly assessing Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, but data sets have so far proven more difficult to find.

England comprises 32 million acres (12.9 million hectares), of which 3.36 million

acres (1.36 mha) is already covered with woodland – just over 10%. The government's system of Agricultural Land Grades divides the country into 5 grades of farmland quality (alongside urban areas and some non-agricultural land). Grades 1-3 are high-quality land well suited to crop growing, so while they may contain many areas available for tree planting, we've excluded them from consideration. We've also excluded Grade 5 land, as this is a good proxy for upland peat bogs. **This leaves us with 4.5 million acres (1.8 mha) of Grade 4 poor-quality farmland, mostly used for pasture currently.** Some already has trees growing on it. The remainder covers around 3.9 million acres (1.6 mha, 12% of England). **If we were to grow trees on all of this it would more than double England's forest cover, taking us to 22%.**

Rohan Lewis



The Forestry Commission recommends that more timber be used in buildings. Timber used in construction locks up carbon for the life of the building.

PHOTO: Hilary Byers



Some woodland needs to be conserved for its wildlife value.

PHOTO: Hilary Byers

# The devil will be in the Trade Deal details

**So now we know where we are! We'll leave the EU and then things will move on to negotiating trade deals.**

Like most people, I've never had any involvement with trade deals. I thought I'd ask some questions of those knowledgeable people at Friends of the Earth's HQ. Replies came from Kierra Box, Trade and Brexit Campaigner.

**Kierra says**

Because the EU has negotiated all our trade deals up to now, the UK hasn't really had a process for how they're negotiated and who can get involved.

In theory, government will pass a Trade Bill to allow a process in the future which could include a lot of the stuff below, but it was debated last year for a long time before getting stuck in parliament and eventually dropped as there was a lot of disagreement about what should be in it. We're hoping for a new version of the Bill soon...

**Q. Are the terms of Trade Deals made public before they are signed?**

**A.** Short answer, no.

**Q. Can organisations like Friends of the Earth go through them with a fine toothcomb and identify anything that might harm the environment? If they do, can they do anything to influence them before they are signed?**

**A.** We can go through them, but often not until they're pretty much agreed, which means we can't help shape negotiating priorities or raise concerns as discussions progress. The UK doesn't currently have a proper process for civil society engagement in trade deals. Government has been resistant to bringing out a new Trade Bill with improved opportunities for engagement and input early in the process. The best on offer at the moment is likely to be 'stakeholder roundtables' and other opportunities to comment on, but not change the content of, deals. At the moment, it seems very unlikely

that even parliament will have the ability to vote both at the beginning and the end of negotiations to shape their content and agree the final deal. We think this needs to change.

**Q. Can the deals be altered after they have been signed, eg if something that is allowed turns out to be harmful, or even just if people's understanding changes?**

**A.** Existing trade deals already have review clauses in them, but it's very hard to get a review currently on anything other than economic grounds. Also, often the parts of the agreements that relate to the environment are very limited and aren't binding, meaning that if one side ignores them, it is hard for the other trading partner to do anything about that. That's why we think there should be stronger, more enforceable agreements on action to protect and improve our climate, wellbeing and environment that shape what countries can put in trade agreements and prevent them from bolstering harmful action.

**Q. How long does a Deal usually last?**

**A.** Deals basically last forever, and are just renegotiated as time goes on, unless a member pulls out for political reasons, as happened with Trump's USA and the TPP.

**Q. I fear that businesses like Monsanto are licking their lips waiting to get into our markets and sell chemicals or other things that are not at present allowed under EU rules; am I right to fear this?**

**A.** Yes. The current government have repeatedly said that one benefit of Brexit will be the ability of the UK **to change standards and leave EU regulations that currently govern things like chemicals and food safety**. They've also already begun discussions with the US in which a number of these safeguards have been referred to as barriers to a future trade deal, making them even more precarious. We know companies like Monsanto have been trying to get their products into EU markets for years, despite ongoing safety concerns about impacts on human health, water or soil contamination, and damage to biodiversity.

*Thanks Kierra, you've given us a lot to think about.*

**And what should our role, as Hull FOE be?** Well, we can help the campaigning groups with funding of course, and we can spread the word to those who aren't aware, which will be most people. But also we fortunately have a movement of brilliant and energetic environmental activists determined to make their voices heard. **Let's join with them.**

**Hilary Byers**

with answers from Kierra Box of Friends of the Earth



Port of Hull. Will we have any say in Trade Deals? PHOTO: Hilary Byers





Setting Dyke Community Green Space after period of heavy rain November 2019

PHOTO: Paul Collinson

*ChitChat continued from page 2*

## Mayor's luncheon celebrates locally grown vegetables

The Lord Mayor of Hull Councillor Steve Wilson hosted a luncheon in November at Hull's Guildhall titled a 'Celebration of vegetables' with most ingredients grown within a few miles of the city centre.

The supply of vegetables was coordinated by Veg Cities Hull. Allotments on Clough Road and County Road, and community gardens Rooted in Hull, Constable Community Allotment and Pickering Road Community Orchard donated produce.

It is hoped that discussions during the meal will lead to closer links, future collaborations and the strengthening of community initiatives around cooking and eating and growing more vegetables in Hull.

Announcement from Hull Food Partnership

## Development threat to Garroby Community Orchard greenspace site

Garrowby Community Orchard occupies part of Setting Dyke Community Green Space, the former Setting Dyke Primary School site which has been allowed to naturalise into a much-loved area of green space straddling the dyke on the NW boundary of Hull with the East Riding, near Priory Road. The site is an officially recognised Asset of Community Value. Residents maintain access to the land for walkers and children's play, and have planted an area of woodland as well as the orchard. The site is valuable for wildlife, including a mixed hedgerow with mature trees along the boundary and some rare plants. The area also contains floodwater during periods of heavy rain, preventing damage to nearby houses.

**Planning applications have now been submitted to Hull and to East Riding councils to use over half the site for veterans' houses and associated facilities.**

Hull FOE feels that, while we are sure veterans need houses, this seems a totally inappropriate site. Anyone who feels the same should object to the applications straight away at:

[www.hull.gov.uk/planning/planning-applications](http://www.hull.gov.uk/planning/planning-applications) quoting application 19/00989/FULL and

[www.eastriding.gov.uk/planning-permission-and-building-control/applications](http://www.eastriding.gov.uk/planning-permission-and-building-control/applications) quoting application 19/02848/STPLF

### Hilary Byers

from information supplied by Chrissy and Paul Collinson

## Ideal Boilers add nature to industry

Ideal Boilers are improving their site on National Avenue for both nature and their employees, in partnership with Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, HEYwoods and Butterfly City.

So far, they have planted 12 Rowan trees across the front of their site and are planting more pollinating trees and plants on other locations near their staff picnic site. Swift boxes are to be installed, former bowling greens are being left to turn into meadows and alder buckthorn will host the brimstone butterfly.

They are said to be the first manufacturing site in the city to adopt these initiatives and will be looking to extend them to their other sites.

Summarised from Ideal Boilers' staff magazine, sent by Helen Wastling

Philippa from *Hull Vegans* recommends this quick-to-make dish from **Viva Vegan Recipe Club**

# Tofu Tahini Stir Fry

*"Easy to make, healthy and really tasty..."*

We agree, you can't go wrong with this dish!

Serves 2



## INGREDIENTS

### Tofu

*(if you'd like an even quicker version then use pre-marinated tofu and add it together with the vegetables)*

- 280g (approx.) firm tofu, cubed
- Sesame oil for frying (but any oil fine)
- 1 tbsp soy sauce
- 1 tbsp nutritional yeast

### Vegetables

Either use 1 packet of your favourite stir fry mix or 3 handfuls of stir fry veg (eg broccoli, baby corn, carrot battons, pak choi, edamame beans etc)

### Noodles

Either use 150g (approx) straight-to-wok noodles or dry noodle nests (follow instructions on packet). We used dry wholemeal noodles

### Sauce

- 60g/¼ cup tahini
- 2 tbsp syrup (eg maple or agave)
- 1 tbsp soy sauce
- 1 tbsp rice vinegar (use cider vinegar as an alternative)
- 1 tbsp lime juice
- 1-2 tbsp chilli sauce (depending on how hot you like it!)
- 3-5 tbsp water

## METHOD

NB if you'd rather keep the layers separate (like in the picture) then cook everything separately and layer noodles first, then veg, then tofu then sauce.

### Tofu

- 1 Fry the tofu in sesame oil until golden, stirring occasionally.
- 2 Add the soy sauce and nutritional yeast, stir through and fry for a further 1-2 minutes. Set aside.

### Vegetables and noodles

- 1 Fry the vegetables on a medium-high heat for a few minutes.

- 2 Add the noodles and stir through.

- 3 Add the tofu and stir through.

### Sauce

- 1 In a small saucepan, heat all of the ingredients on a medium heat.
- 2 Pour over the noodles, veg and tofu and decorate with toasted cashews, fresh chillies, seeds, fresh coriander and anything else you fancy.

[www.veganrecipeclub.org.uk/recipes/tofu-tahini-stir-fry](http://www.veganrecipeclub.org.uk/recipes/tofu-tahini-stir-fry)

## Carpet waste

Hull Friends of the Earth is a member of UK Without Incineration Network (UKWIN). It aims to prevent waste which could be reduced, reused, recycled or composted from going to incineration. Currently, UKWIN is drawing attention to carpet waste.

An area of carpet the size of Birmingham is thrown away every year in the UK. Less than 1% of the waste is reused and less

than 2% recycled. This is in spite of the fact that the firm handling most of the waste is called Carpet Recycling UK! The rest goes to incineration [where it gives off toxic fumes] or landfill. The problems are the mix of fibres used in their manufacture and the plastic incorporated into their backing. Shredding and then reusing the material only increases the likelihood of fibres getting into the environment.

UKWIN is pressing for legislation to force manufacturers to design carpets with genuine reuse and recycling in mind. It is also looking for acceptable new uses; underlay and insulation seem the most likely.

PS It is not a good idea to put old carpet on your garden or compost heap unless you are certain that it is made of 100% natural materials.

Hilary Byers, using info from UKWIN





Transition & Permaculture Hull will be involved in the following free events over the next few months

**February - Wayne from Sow Seeds** will be talking to us about

his new local business, and what seeds are available, including vegetable seeds, edible flowers and green manures <https://www.sowseeds.co.uk/>. Mon 10 Feb, 7.30 pm, Friends Meeting House, Bean St, Hull HU3 2PR

**March - Hull Seed Swap 2020**, organised by Hull Food Partnership and Transition & Permaculture Hull, along the lines of last year's very successful event, with loads of seeds changing hands, speakers on topics related to growing food, cookery demonstration and refreshments. Sat 7 March, 10.30 am - 3.00 pm, Jubilee Central, King Edward St, Hull HU1 3SQ

**April onwards** - plans are under discussion to offer an **introductory talk about permaculture and/or a practical session at Constable Community Allotment** looking at how permaculture principles are implemented there. We also hope to arrange working visits to other local sites, with the aim of helping with tasks identified by people at the site, whilst learning more about permaculture.

**So you can keep in touch with what we, and lots of other local groups, are doing, we run a mailing list. If you would like to join the list please email me at [jenny@transitionhull.co.uk](mailto:jenny@transitionhull.co.uk)**

### **Constable Community Allotment**

We are hoping to run a variety of events and activities again this year, possibly starting off with a **pruning workshop** as our first event. There will be an **Easter Egg Hunt** on the allotment during the Easter holidays. We hope to have our usual **annual open day** in the summer, with stalls and activities.

**We will be inviting people to agree to subscribe to the allotment, and as a thank you we will give our subscribers a veg box each week. This scheme ran for the first time last year and proved successful.**

Keep an eye on our facebook page for information on dates for events <https://www.facebook.com/constableallotment/>.

The website <http://www.constableallotment.org.uk/> also has photographs and information about the site.

**Volunteer sessions are Fridays and Saturdays**, but you are welcome to enjoy the peace and tranquillity of the allotment at other times; please contact Lausanne on 07816 141169.

### **WEA Courses**

The following WEA courses will be delivered by Lausanne Tranter, from whom more details can be obtained on 07816 141169. To enrol ring 0300 303 3464 and quote the course code.

- ▶ **Springtime in the garden:** 10 weeks from Wed 22 Jan, 10 am to 12 noon at the Friends Meeting House, Bean St, Hull HU3 2PR, with visits to a local community allotment if weather permits. A variety of topics will be covered, including planting an edible flower bed. Course Code C3676082
- ▶ **Super Soups: Taster Session** Thu 20 Feb, 9.30 am to 12.30 pm (1 session) at the Rainbow Children's Centre, Wheeler St, Hull HU3 5QE. Spend the morning making hearty nutritious soups. Course Code 3677099
- ▶ **Backyard Gardening: Taster Session** Mon 2 March, 9.30 am to 12.30 pm (1 session) at the Rainbow Children's Centre, Wheeler St, Hull HU3 5QE. Utilise whatever space you have, however limited. There will be an opportunity to visit a nearby allotment. Code 3677100

#### Jenny Parsons

Treasurer, Transition & Permaculture Hull

<http://www.transitionhull.co.uk/> 01482 845356

## **XR Hull's 1st meeting of 2020**

### ***Hello everybody!***

Everyone is welcome at XR Hull's 1st meeting of 2020 which will take place on **Thursday 30 January from 7-9pm at Bean and Nothingness on Whitefriargate.**

This meeting will provide an opportunity for members of the group to reconnect and for anyone who would like to join to come along and meet existing members and to share their own views and ideas in a discussion about our plans for 2020.

The Climate and Ecological Emergency that we face becomes more urgent with every day that passes. Millions of people, plants and animals are suffering across the Earth. It is important now more than ever for us to unite and show #solidarity, to #actnow and to #rebelforlife.

Come and join us in our attempts to protect the future of all life.

<https://facebook.com/events/s/xr-hull-general-meeting/2595081764142499/?ti=cl>

### ***Love and rebellion,***

Dan

## **East Riding needs a Climate Action Plan**

Climate Action East Yorkshire are to lodge a petition with East Riding of Yorkshire Council, asking them to develop an ambitious Climate Action Plan for East Yorkshire. You may remember that when last asked to take action relating to Climate Change, ERYC stated that the 2050 target set by National Government was the benchmark that it would use for its own planning to counter Climate Change.

Recent events leave no room for doubt regarding the urgency with which this matter should be addressed. **Please sign this petition, at the address below.** if you are reading this article online: simply click on the link below and follow the instructions.

<https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/call-for-east-riding-of-yorkshire-council-to-create-a-climate-action-plan?source=email&>

Thank you and very best regards,

Harry Clark



# Is factory farming illegal?

*Let me introduce you to an amazing friend of mine, Clare Druce.*

She cofounded the pressure group Chickens' Lib in 1973 and published a brilliant account of the group's activities in her book *Chickens' Lib* (2013). In the 1990s she was an expert witness for the defence in the *McLibel* case (*McDonald's v Steel and Morris* 1994-996) when the broiler and battery-egg industries were condemned as cruel.

Clare has convinced me that factory farming is illegal. Present legislation closely reflects the needs of animals described in the *Animal Welfare Act 2006*, Duty of person responsible for animal to ensure welfare, (9,2) and The Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007, (Statutory Instrument No 2078). These 'needs' are based on **The Five Freedoms** (derived from the 1965 Brambell report as listed below) yet animals on factory farms are routinely abused.

For instance, artificial insemination denies the need for animals to display natural behaviour patterns and to be protected from pain, injury and disease. Artificial insemination is not only sexually abusive but causes pain and even injury. Scientists agree that farmed animals retain their natural behavioural instincts, yet every day in the UK millions are deprived of any kind of contentment. And herein lies the legal paradox: this situation exists despite specific animal protection laws that are impossible to achieve within an intensive farming system.

The Five Freedoms demand:

- ▶ Freedom from hunger and thirst
- ▶ Freedom from discomfort
- ▶ Freedom from pain, injury and disease
- ▶ Freedom to express normal behaviour
- ▶ Freedom from fear and distress

**So is factory farming illegal? What do you think?**

**Sign the petition:**

<https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/factory-farming-is-illegal-2>

**Clare's book at special price from Hillside: CHICKEN'S LIB**

[https://hillsideanimalsanctuary.mybigcommerce.com/chickens-lib-clare-druce/?mc\\_cid=d85134e4c4&mc\\_eid=f2f247aa1a](https://hillsideanimalsanctuary.mybigcommerce.com/chickens-lib-clare-druce/?mc_cid=d85134e4c4&mc_eid=f2f247aa1a)

**Clare's Blog:** <https://factoryfarmingisillegal.wordpress.com/author/chickenslib/>

**Further information:**

<https://humanebeing.org.uk/info-%2F-articles>

**Peta Smith**

(Member of the Green Party and Greens for Animal Protection)

## Social & Therapeutic Weaving Studio in Hull

*Flynn and Holly: Day placements*

### Hello Friends

We provide **day placements** for adults with a disability, learning disability/difficulty or long term health condition. This means that people can come to our studio every week and be part of our textile collective!

Please get in touch if you know people who would like to get involved!



Our studio is a **safe, nurturing and meaningful work environment** where we enable individuals to make arts and craft pieces which are then developed into products to sell. **We strive to create a platform for positive change in attitude** towards people with additional needs through high quality artwork, creative products and social enterprise.

*Day placements can be funded through one of our grant funded projects or through an individual's social care budget.*

**Get in touch for more information!**

Greetings and best wishes,

Flynn Ralph Hopper

BSc (Hons) Learning Disability Nursing, Studio Coordinator

**Tel:** 07825 221642 **Website:** [www.lifeandloom.co.uk](http://www.lifeandloom.co.uk)

Company Registration Number: 11946505

The Studio, 38-58 Selby Street, Hull, HU3 3PT

## No-Dig Community Allotment

No-Dig Community Allotment (NDCA) group aims to create and maintain a thriving community resource for the benefit and enjoyment of all.

It will:

- ▶ Encourage participation by people of all ages and abilities in garden-related activities that are creative, sociable, educational, healthy and enjoyable.
- ▶ Promote awareness of the benefits of gardening, growing food, nature conservation and related outdoor activities.
- ▶ Encourage awareness and appreciation of sound environmental principles and practices such as no-dig, recycling, nature conservation, organic cultivation, sustainable horticulture/permaculture and related subjects.
- ▶ Offer opportunities to learn about the **Charles Dowding No Dig** method and other land-based activities for people of all abilities, including people with learning disabilities, people with mental ill-health, disadvantaged families and local school children.



**We meet every week on Wednesdays and Sundays from 10.30am at Clough Road Allotments.** The gates are open until around 11.30 so you will need to ring Laura on 07516288950 if you want to gain access after then.

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

**Laura Walker**

# Businesses aim for clean growth

Some years ago, the eleven Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) which cover England from Yorkshire and Lancashire northwards came together to form the “Northern Powerhouse 11” (NP11). In summer 2016 they assembled a 15-strong “Northern Energy Taskforce” to develop a Northern Energy Strategy up to the year 2050, and this was duly published a year later by the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR 2017).

Perhaps due to the influence of Humber LEP's chairman, local businessman and Labour peer Christopher Haskins, the NP11 chose Hull's Bonus Arena as the venue for their recent 2-day Energy and Clean Growth conference. Here, the NP11 presented their latest report on progress towards their Strategy goals, chief among which is complying with the UK goal of Net Zero Carbon by 2050.

It was also the chance for businesses in the energy sector to present their wares, both on exhibition stands and at the conference sessions, three or four of which were generally running in

parallel. Due to the high level of industry sponsorship, Hull FoE were offered free places, though sadly, due to our currently low level of active membership we were only able to have one person attend at any one time.

The “Energy and Clean Growth” report is very detailed as to the current situation and to the plans of individual LEPs, and contains facts of which I was quite unaware. Did you know that a new 1.4GW electricity interconnector is about to open between Blyth on the Northumberland coast and Norway? Or that Warrington Borough Council has recently invested £50m in solar farms? Or that Sheffield City LEP is set to become home to the Atomic Energy Agency's new £22m nuclear fusion research facility? Regarding the way forward, the document is mostly cautious and pragmatic, recognising that central government policy is often the crucial factor—with 17% of UK greenhouse gas emissions arising from space heating of buildings, there is little hope of decarbonising this sector, unless the government backs its promise of ensuring all homes meet EPC Band C by 2035 with cash.

Some less familiar options were explored in conference sessions, including hydrogen gas and geothermal heat—

the latter included the estimate from the Coal Authority that heat pumps deployed in the disused mines beneath Sheffield could access up to 11 Megawatts.

Not all the news was entirely welcome — nuclear power is clearly scheduled for revival, notably in Cumbria, and Rolls-Royce gave a presentation on their design for a modular nuclear reactor, all discussion of fuel source and waste disposal being firmly excluded (even when I specifically asked about it). Also, perhaps inevitably given their major sponsorship of the event, Drax's totally untried plans for bioenergy with carbon capture and storage were given undue deference. For a more realistic perspective on BECCS I recommend [www.geoengineering.org](http://www.geoengineering.org)

The NP11 have their own website—[www.np11.org.uk](http://www.np11.org.uk)—but at the time of writing it has no reference to this conference, nor can you read there the Energy and Clean Growth report which it launched. It seems a pity, as my copy of the report has already fallen apart into a heap of glossy sheets. One hopes that this deficiency will be remedied in time—unless of course, in the light of the outcome of December's election, they wish the whole thing forgotten.

**Rohan Lewis**

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## Ships swap air fumes for sea pollution

**Global shipping companies have spent billions rigging vessels with “cheat devices” that circumvent new environmental legislation by dumping pollution into the sea instead of the air, revealed an article in The Independent of 27 October 2019.**

The devices, known as open-loop scrubbers, extract sulphur from the exhaust fumes of ships that run on heavy fuel oil. This means the vessels meet standards demanded by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) that kick in on 1 January 2020. However, the sulphur emitted by the ships is simply re-routed from the exhaust and expelled into the water around the ships, which not only greatly increases the volume of pollutants being

pumped into the sea, but also increases carbon dioxide emissions.

The change could have a devastating effect on wildlife in British waters and around the world, experts have warned. Out of a total of 3,756 converted ships, only 23 have had closed-loop scrubbers installed, a version of the device that does not discharge into the sea and stores the extracted sulphur in tanks before discharging it at a safe disposal facility in a port.

For every ton of fuel burned, ships using open-loop scrubbers emit approximately 45 tons of warm, acidic, contaminated washwater containing carcinogens including polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and heavy metals, according to the International Council on Clean Transportation (ICCT),

a non-profit organisation that provides scientific analysis to environmental regulators.

Bryan Comer, a senior researcher at ICCT, said the use of scrubbers by cruise ships is a particular concern because of the pristine waters they often visit. The ICCT has estimated that cruise ships with scrubbers will consume around 4 million tons of heavy fuel oil in 2020 and will discharge 180 million tons of contaminated scrubber washwater overboard.

For us in Hull, this is another reason to be cautious about the proposed siting and operation of a cruise terminal in Hull.

**Hilary Byers**

based on article in The Independent of 27 October 2019



# The Waterline Summit

**I decided to give the political leaders' climate change debate on television a miss and go to see what was happening in our local region at the Waterline Summit at Bonas Arena on Thursday 30 November 2019.**

Organised by Marketing Humber and Yorkshire Water, Waterline is a movement bringing together businesses in the Humber region with the University of Hull, schools, colleges and other organisations 'to support the region's transition to a zero-carbon economy'. Essentially, businesses are looking at how solving their own problems of reducing their carbon footprint can also present business opportunities, for themselves or other businesses.

The format of the event was the familiar one of stalls, whiteboards for contributing your ideas, short and longer presentations and questions. Here is some of what I learnt.

- ▶ The Energy and Environment Institute at the University of Hull, has grown from just two people to more than 80 in under three years as the university has boosted its commitment to research and development around climate issues. The university pledged that its campus would be carbon neutral by 2027.
- ▶ Dr Elaine Lancaster, Chief Technical Officer of Groupe Atlantic UK, owner of Hull-based Ideal Boilers, said they were at the forefront of developing heat pumps as part of new, sustainable heating systems, to address the challenges of climate impact from homes and buildings.

- ▶ I'd have liked to have challenged Drax's claim to be leading on renewable energy, since the wood they import from USA to burn is only 'renewable' in the very long term. Unfortunately, there was no one on their stall when I was there.
- ▶ There was much talk of ways of capturing and storing carbon, but I liked the concrete manufacturer that was looking at how they could manufacture other items out of the carbon they generate.
- ▶ The much publicised Hull Lagoon project was represented, but no sign that it will incorporate any tidal energy generation.

It seems the region has its very own Greta Thunberg in the form of **10 year old Lucie Parsons**. Lucie is an ambassador for the **iwill campaign** ([www.iwill.org.uk](http://www.iwill.org.uk)), which promotes social action among young people, and a supporter of the **Kids Against Plastic** charity. She has also inspired her classmates at her East Yorkshire primary school to join in campaigning to protect the environment. With a confidence I could only envy, she told a large audience of business and community representatives:

**"We humans are responsible for climate change and we need to stop it and stop it now. We need to stop releasing greenhouse gases and change our carbon usage.**

**My question to you is, 'What will you do?**

**If everyone in this room takes something away with them and actually does something then The Waterline has been a success," she said.**

Hilary Byers

## Offshore wind can provide hydrogen too

A detailed study of the world's coastlines has found that offshore windfarms alone could provide more electricity than the world needs – even if they are only built in windy regions in shallow waters near the shore.

Analysis by the International Energy Agency (IEA) revealed that if windfarms were built across all useable sites which are no further than 60km (37 miles) off the coast, and where coastal waters are no deeper than 60 metres, they could generate 36,000 terawatt hours of renewable electricity a year. This would easily meet the current global demand for electricity of 23,000 terawatt hours.

"Offshore wind currently provides just 0.3% of global power generation, but its potential is vast," the IEA's executive director, Fatih Birol, said.

Birol said offshore wind would not only contribute to generating clean electricity, but could also offer a major opportunity in the production of hydrogen, which can be used instead of fossil fuel gas for heating and in heavy industry.

The process of making hydrogen from water uses huge amounts of electricity but abundant, cheap offshore wind power could help produce a low-cost, zero-carbon alternative to gas.

In the North Sea, energy companies are already planning to use the electricity generated by giant offshore windfarms to turn seawater into hydrogen on a floating "green hydrogen" project, backed by the UK government. The clean-burning gas could be pumped back to shore to heat millions of homes by the 2030s. The UK has committed to reaching net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

Hilary Byers

summarised from The Guardian 26 October 2019



# Hull Friends of the Earth

## HULL FOE MEMBERSHIP

Contact details		Payment details	
		<b>Please note: the membership year runs from 1 April to 31 March each year.</b>	
<b>Name</b>	Mr <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs <input type="checkbox"/> Ms <input type="checkbox"/> Mx <input type="checkbox"/>	I enclose:	
<b>Address</b>		Membership fee (£10 waged, £5 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: Membership Secretary, Hull Friends of the Earth 121 New Village Road, Cottingham HU16 4ND	
<b>Email</b>			
<b>How do you want to receive ECO?</b> <i>Please tick as appropriate</i>  By email (in colour) <input type="checkbox"/>  In print by post (black and white) <input type="checkbox"/>		<b>I WANT TO PAY BY STANDING ORDER</b> We encourage members to pay by Annual Standing Order. Cheques are being used less and less frequently and a standing order helps you to remember to pay and saves us sending reminders.  If you wish to pay by standing order please instruct your bank to set up the payment to: <b>Hull FOE Sort code: 05-05-25 Account no: 27534801</b>	
<b>YOUR DATA IS IMPORTANT</b> The change in General Data Protection Regulation means that we need your permission to hold your data. We will keep your details safe and we will only use them to manage the organisation and keep you informed. PLEASE SIGN IN THE BOX BELOW TO GIVE YOUR CONSENT FOR US TO HOLD YOUR DATA WHILST YOU ARE A MEMBER. <div style="text-align: right;"><i>Many thanks.</i></div>			
I hereby give my consent for Hull Friends of the Earth to store and use the data provided above for business purposes. I understand that I have the right to see the data stored at any time and that I can request its removal at any time. SIGNED _____			

### SHARE YOUR NEWS?

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

**Deadlines are the first Thursday in January, April, July, October**

Please send to Hilary (details below).

Coordinator:	Lee-ann Williams, 59 Meadowbank Road, Hull HU3 6XL	Tel: 07583 194313 Email: leeann@hfoe.org.uk
Treasurer and Membership Secretary	Rohan Lewis, 121 New Village Road, Cottingham HU16 4ND	Tel: 01482 844629 Email: rohan2@rohan2.karoo.co.uk
ECO Editor:	Hilary Byers, 170 Victoria Avenue, Hull HU5 3DY	Tel: 01482 445747 Email: hilary@amskaya.karoo.co.uk
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