



Hull

EC



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

www.hfoe.org.uk

April 2019 Issue 65

DIARY DATES

Thurs 2 May 7pm

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

Thurs 6 June 7pm

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

Thurs 4 July 7pm

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

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

Thurs 1 August 7pm

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

★ Bookings start for **Green Fair** stalls. Let us know if you want one!

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Hull Council declares climate emergency

At their Council meeting on Thursday, 21st March, Hull City Council joined 56 other councils in Britain in declaring a Climate Emergency.

There was some debate about whether to include the word 'emergency' but it eventually gained cross party support. The approved motion "resolves to do everything within the Council's power to make Hull carbon neutral by 2030".

Information in the text of the motion included: 'Hull is a member of the Global Resilient Cities wider network and the second most invested city in England in terms of flood prevention'.

'Council believes, however, that our current plans and actions are not enough. The world is on track to overshoot the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C limit before 2050 and less than 2°C warming by 2100 is unlikely. With the likely increase being between 2.0-4.9°C, Hull is particularly vulnerable to sea level rise, and the current 1°C of warming could result in 2m of sea level rise by 2100, enough to submerge Hull within the lifetime of today's children. A 2°C to 4°C of warming could see sea level rises of 4.7m, to 8.9m.'

'Council resolves to do everything within the Council's power to make Hull carbon neutral by 2030, taking into account both production and consumption emissions. Council also resolves to call on the Government to provide the powers and resources to make the 2030 target possible, to work with other Governments to determine and implement best practice methods to limit Global Warming to less than 1.5°C and to continue to work with partners across the City and region to deliver this new goal through all relevant strategies and plans.'

'Council requests a report back to Full Council within six months on the actions that will be taken to address and action this resolution'.

Hilary Byers based on the motion put to Hull City Council

PHOTO: Hilary Byers



ECO Chit Chat



Our meetings

Remember Hull Friends of the Earth now have our meetings on 1st Thursday of every month at Blondes Café on King Street in Cottingham; refreshments from 7pm for a prompt start at 7.30pm. Everyone is very welcome! If stairs will cause you problems, just let us know before the meeting.



Apologies!

Sorry that I neglected to put notice of the AGM in our last ECO. Sorry too that we were late getting ECO out. *We'll try harder in future!*



Thank you Karen

At the AGM on Thursday April 4th Karen stood down as Treasurer and Membership Secretary. Thank you, Karen, for all you have done for Hull FoE. Rod stepped forward to take on the Treasurer's job; many thanks Rod!

We'll need a little time to set things up, so in the meantime please send your subs to **Lee-Ann or Hilary** (contact details back page).



Subs due

Your subs are always due in April each year. Subs are £10 if you are waged and £5 unwaged. Of course, if you take out a Standing Order you don't need to worry about forgetting!



FoE Green Fair

Hull FoE's Green Fair will be on **Saturday 26th October** at Cottingham Civic Hall. We will be taking stall bookings from the beginning of August, so if you want a stall just let Hilary know (contact details back page).

Correction

The article about the commemorative tree planting for Angela in last issue of ECO refers to HfOE/YWT Tree Nursery as the supplier of the Rowan tree. This is incorrect — the tree came from **Down To Earth Community Interest Company Limited** who are responsible for the plot on Newland Allotments.

Easter Special Train

Saturday 20th April

The Yorkshire Coast Community Rail Partnership invite you to hop aboard our Easter special train :

10:00 Bridlington to Hull
11:30 Hull to Scarborough
13:25 Scarborough to Bridlington

There's no need to book and normal fares will apply.

FREE CREME EGGS FOR ALL ACCOMPANIED CHILDREN AND FREE RAFFLES WILL BE HELD TO WIN LARGE EGGS!!!

YORKSHIRE COAST COMMUNITY RAIL PARTNERSHIP
www.yccrp.co.uk



The Friends of Pearson Park

Night Walk & Bat Watch on Tues 7 May

in Pearson Park, on Tues 7 May. Meet at the conservatory at 8.45pm for 9pm. All welcome!

Tree Walk in Pearson Park on Wed 15 May.

Meet at the conservatory at 2pm.

Enjoy a walk in the Park with Tim Beckley, Hull's Urban Forestry Officer, as he identifies its trees, including the "Champions". All welcome!

READERS' COMMENTS

Hull Council declares Climate Emergency (see page 1)

This proposal ie for Hull to reduce carbon dioxide etc emissions will have negligible effect on sea level rise. What Hull needs public money to be spent on is defences against **inevitable** rise of water in the Humber estuary, without which Hull will be flooded well before the end of this century.

Alan Worsley

Anyone want to join in this or any other discussion? — Ed



Spring cleaning Bransholme

Local residents and Hull Friends of the Earth members took part in 2 days of litter picking on 24th and 30th March in woodland near Thomas Clarkson Way and alongside Sutton Road in Bransholme.

The trees were originally planted as a shelter belt to the sewage works when Bransholme was first laid out in the 1970s and have matured into a potentially attractive mixed woodland alongside the River Hull. But it harboured a great deal of rubbish which could, in the event of flooding, have ended up in the river.

The groups collected an amazing total of 95 bags of rubbish, including (for recycling) 16 bags of cans, 18 bags of plastic (mainly bottles) and 9 bags of glass, along with 52 bags of general waste.

I've got to say that, personally, I'd like to see the local McDonalds send out staff on a regular basis to clear their food and drink cartons.

Thanks, Karen, for organising these very worthwhile Clean Up days.



PHOTO Hilary Byers

Hilary, with info supplied by Karen Wood.

Britain's iconic lakes and rivers polluted with plastic, study reveals

It has been tempting to think that plastic-infested rivers carrying waste into the oceans is a problem of the Far East or Africa.

But new research shows the problem also exists closer to home, with up to 1,000 tiny pieces of plastic found per litre in the worst-polluted rivers. From the Thames to the Lake District, Britain's iconic waterways are full of plastic pollution, according to a new analysis.

"It was more than a little startling to discover microplastics were present in even the most remote sites we tested, and quite depressing they were there in some of our country's most iconic locations" said the research scientists.

Waterways containing plastic (pieces per litre of water):

- River Thames, London (84.1)
- Chester reedbed (7.6)
- Ullswater, Lake District (29.5)
- River Irwell, Salford, Greater Manchester (84.8)
- River Tame, Tameside, Greater Manchester (>1,000)
- River Blackwater, Essex (15.1)
- Falls of Dochart, Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park (3.3)
- Loch Lomond, Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park (2.4)
- Afon Cegin – river, North Wales (76.9)
- Llyn Cefni – reservoir, Anglesey, Wales (43.2)



Polyester fleece could well be one of the biggest emitters of microfibres.

The team behind the study say their results show microplastics should be considered an "emergency contaminant" like pharmaceutical waste and pesticides.

"As with all emerging contaminants we don't yet fully know the dangers they present to wildlife and ecosystems, or even human health, and to what levels they occur in all our water systems," said Dr Christian Dunn, a wetlands researcher at Bangor University.

"But it's now clear that microplastics should be considered a serious emerging contaminant and there needs to be a concerted effort to regularly monitor all our inland waters for them.

These pollutants include tiny fibres from clothing, scraps of tyre rubber and plastic pellets used in manufacturing.

In December 2017 Britain joined the other 193 UN countries and signed up to a resolution to help eliminate marine litter and microplastics in the sea. It is estimated that about eight million metric tons of plastic find their way into the world's oceans every year. Once in the ocean, plastic can take hundreds of years to degrade, all the while breaking down into smaller and smaller 'microplastics,' which can be consumed by marine animals, and find their way into the human food chain.

The research was carried out in collaboration with Friends of the Earth, which has been pushing for stronger legislation to curb the tide of plastic pollution and stop microplastics ending up in water. It is thought to be the first study of its kind to use a fluorescence lighting system on water samples to identify and count tiny shards of plastic less than 5mm in size.

"The widespread contamination of our rivers and lakes with microplastic pollution is a major concern, and people will understandably want to know what impact this could have on their health and environment," said Julian Kirby, plastics campaigner at Friends of the Earth.

"MPs must get behind new legislation, currently before parliament, that would commit the government to drastically reduce the flow of plastic pollution that's blighting our environment."

Specifically, they are calling for an end to all non-essential single-use plastic by 2025.

Sign petition at

<https://act.friendsoftheearth.uk/act/help-reduce-plastic-oceans>

Hilary Byers with info from Friends of the Earth and The Independent

Drilling for gas and oil at West Newton

Events here among the volunteer monitors of Rathlin's site are changing fast. To keep up with the news go to www.frackfreeeastyorkshire.com and facebook pages West Newton MIST and West Newton Gateway to the Gas Fields.

EXTREME REBELLION — why I am rebelling

In 1912 a newspaper headline reads: Coal Consumption Affecting Climate – effect may be considerable.

In the 1970's NASA scientist Jim Hansen realises rising CO₂ caused Venus to become uninhabitable, and we might be doing something similar on earth. Only faster. Sci-fi films come out, set in climate changed worlds.

At University in the 1990's I am taught severe warnings by the world's scientists in the IPCC Report, and of global catastrophe if we fail to reduce emissions.

And for my entire adult life, governments have utterly failed to take anything like appropriate action.

Not only have we failed to reduce emissions to zero, we have not reduced them at all. In fact, they are still increasing.

It seems unimaginable, but our very existence is now at stake.

We are now at 1.1 degrees centigrade of warming. The Paris Accord aims to limit warming to 1.5°C. A recent scientific paper found we have only a 1% chance of meeting that aim. 2° to 5° is likely.

"... there is a widespread view that a 4°C future is incompatible with any reasonable characterisation of an organised, equitable and civilised global community." Beyond what we can adapt to. Devastating for ecosystems. Possibly unstable, due to numerous feedbacks. Even 2° could tip us uncontrollably and irreversibly in to a 'Hothouse Earth'. Uninhabitable.*

So pub quiz time, what's the current level of CO₂ in the atmosphere? How many know without checking?

Surely in any sane world this would be on the front of every daily newspaper? "Well done Britain, emissions down



PHOTOS: Richard Howarth

again!" / "Come on UK, we can do better".

The answer's at CO2.earth, and it hasn't been this high for a few million years. (It was 280ppm before the industrial revolution.)

Our government has axed the Green Deal home improvement scheme, axed solar PV subsidies AND generation payments, effectively banned the cheapest form of renewable energy—onshore wind... I could go on. It continues to massively subsidise the oil and gas industry, and is heavily pushing fracking, the most extreme form of fossil fuels this land has ever known.

This is why academics are starting to talk of facing "inevitable near-term social collapse due to climate change". The breakdown of our society within 10 years.*

Sometimes this paralyses me with terror. Sometimes I feel powerless. Sometimes I give up campaigning and enjoy myself. Mostly I feel nausea. I do not offer hope. Environmental organisations have been implying that if we just recycle our plastic bags and weave a bit more yoghurt

we should be ok. It's a dangerous lie. Instead, I seek courage. Courage to act in the absence of hope.

Ultimately I cannot stand by whilst our government facilitates climate genocide, and very possibly extinction.

This is why I am joining the Extinction Rebellion. Large scale civil disobedience. Non-violent direct action on a massive scale.

I don't know whether it will work, but it's the best idea I've heard yet.

Of course, I could be wrong about all this. In which case we could end up making a better world for nothing.

On the bright side though, at least people give a care about plastic pollution now.

Richard Howarth

Website: rebellion.earth

Richard offers talks on behalf of Extinction Rebellion Hull. Contact: xrhull@protonmail.com

*Full references available at ground.tk/xr

Stop the world's largest wood pellet factory!

Dear friends of the rainforests,

Enviva, the world's largest manufacturer of wood pellets, is planning the largest pellet factory in the world in the U.S. state of Mississippi.

One of the biggest lies the pellet industry tells is that it processes only scrap wood and sawdust. In reality, keeping this factory running would mean **clear-cutting 130,000 acres – more than 50,000 hectares – of North American forests every year.** It would produce an annual 1.4 million tons of wood pellets to be exported and burned for "green" energy in Europe and Asia.

Enviva recently told investors that it is still undecided about building the factory.



We still have a good chance of stopping it, but we must act now.

Please support Dogwood Alliance's campaign against the plant by submitting a public comment to the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality <https://www.dogwoodalliance.org/actions/no-enviva/>

Please also sign our petition <https://www.dogwoodalliance.org/actions/no-enviva/> telling the EU that biomass is neither clean nor green – it is an industry that **destroys forests, harms public health and threatens our climate.**

Thanks for being involved,

Reinhard Behrend

Rainforest Rescue (Rettet den Regenwald eV)

Hull Food Partnership



Hull Food Partnership will be coordinating local activity of a national event called the **Big Dig** on **Saturday 27th April**. Sites in east, west and north Hull have been chosen to host the event and will be supported by **Absolutely Cultured** volunteers.

The day, which has run nationally each April for a several years, encourages gardens to welcome volunteers and visitors, new and old, to explore how to grow food and celebrate the start of spring and the new growing season.

If you would like to volunteer on the day or register your own site visit hullfoodpartnership.org.uk/the-big-dig for more details about the national event go to www.bigdig.org.uk

John Pickles

07476 293999 www.hullfoodpartnership.org.uk

Wilson Bed: help us grow on this site in the heart of the city

The Wilson Bed by the Wilson Centre in Hull City Centre will be used to grow fruit and vegetables for the community for its 6th year.

It is going to be planted out in June and if anyone would like to get involved with the planting and maintenance, please get in touch with the **Hull Food Partnership** at:

www.hullfoodpartnership.org.uk/the-veg-patch

John Pickles

Hull Food Partnership



PHOTO: John Pickles

Hull youth strikes for the climate as part of global school strikes

On Friday 15th March, a group of about 100 students and supporting adults assembled in Queens Gardens. Students came from schools and colleges from across the city to demand their voices were heard regarding the devastation of the planet and the lack of action that governments are taking over it.

PHOTOS: Lee-Ann Williams



March 15th was the second global school strike and the first one that Hull had joined in with. The School Strike for Climate (also known as Fridays for Future, Youth for Climate and Youth Strike 4 Climate) is an international movement of school students who are walking out of classes on specific days to take part in demonstrations to demand action to prevent further global warming and climate change.

The inspiration behind all this came from 15 year old Swedish school student Greta Thunberg who sat outside the Swedish Riksdag or parliament, holding a sign that read "SKOLSTREJK FÖR KLIMATET" ("School strike for the climate") in August 2018. She still strikes every Friday and has won massive support for

speaking to the world leaders at Davos - 'I want you to panic... Our house is on fire.' She has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.

The demands of the students include: asking the Government to declare a 'state of climate emergency', to educate the British public about the seriousness of global warming, changes to the curriculum and a lowering of the voting age to 16.

Our young people marched around the city centre, chased by local media, finishing up at the Guildhall. They sat outside the Guildhall demanding to be heard. A small group went into the building to ask if someone could come out in response.

Councillor Lunn, a cabinet member and Portfolio holder came out to speak with the crowd and told them about the upcoming council meeting about the Climate and environment on the following Thursday.

By the time this goes to print, there will have been a presumably larger gathering which is due to take place on the 12th April.

On a personal level, standing with the small group of young people who were there at the beginning, I felt very emotional as more and more joined us. This seems to be something very different, just when we really needed it. **As adults who care, I ask you to stand behind our young people in their demands and support the strikes whenever possible.**

Lee-Ann

<http://ukscn.org> www.fridaysforfuture.org

Drax, STOP BURNING ALL THE THINGS! by Duncan Law, Biofuelwatch

On 21 March I joined Hull Friends of the Earth to answer questions at their second screening of the award-winning documentary *BURNED – Are Trees the New Coal?* which spotlights the increasing use of wood for electricity in the name of clean green energy, and why it is actually a very high-carbon false solution. **For the next 3 months a 25 minute version of the BURNED film can be watched at <https://www.linktv.org/shows/burned-are-trees-the-new-coal>.**

We urge you to watch it.

Drax, adjacent to Hull, is the biggest power station and emitter of CO₂ in the UK. It is the biggest burner of wood for electricity in the world and was until recently the biggest burner of coal. Because coal is being phased out in 2025 and biomass subsidies end in 2027 it wants to ensure

its future by converting to be the biggest gas power station in the UK.

In 2018 Drax got £789 million in subsidies (levied on our power bills) for burning wood which increases carbon emissions, damages forests and biodiversity and pollutes communities. In the same year Drax's biomass burning emitted over 13 million tonnes of carbon from smokestacks—more per unit of energy than if coal had been burned. But this is 'zero-counted' as if it didn't contribute to climate change. To put this in perspective the Committee on Climate Change recommended an annual carbon reduction to meet carbon targets of 10 million tonnes for the whole country. It also disregards large soil-carbon emissions from clear-felling carbon-rich wetland forests in the Global Biodiversity Hotspot that is the south-eastern US. And

the CO₂ that remains in the atmosphere because a chunk of the carbon sink has just disappeared up a chimney. Trees regrow slowly so it takes decades to centuries for the forests to reabsorb that carbon, as 800 scientists warned the European Parliament in a letter last year.

And, as if that isn't enough, Drax wants more subsidies to build its gas power station which will emit 287 million tonnes of CO₂ through till 2047. This power station is not needed according to the government's own prediction of need, and will ensure we miss our commitments under the Paris Agreement to keep warming below 1.5 degrees.

And yet its Annual Report is entitled 'Enabling a zero carbon, lower cost energy future'. It pretends it is the friend of intermittent renewables providing back-

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Celebrating National Nettle Week

Down To Earth Hull Community Interest Company Limited will be celebrating National Nettle Week on Thursday 23 May with a soft launch of 'The Plot' on Edgumbe Street Allotments, off Newland Avenue.

Originally formed as an unincorporated association, **Down to Earth Hull** is founded on the belief that an appreciation and understanding of plants and the natural environment is essential to a healthy, fulfilling existence. Down to Earth Hull believes that positive change is best achieved when people and communities are united and empowered, and that the best way of learning is by doing. During its initial years the group developed a herbal garden on land behind houses on Salmon Grove, took people on foraging walks and ran workshops on herbal remedies. Then sadly the garden was lost to make way for student accommodation and parking, leaving the group without a base.

The solution was to take over a site on **Edgumbe Street allotments** that had previously been used by Hull FoE and Yorkshire Wildlife Trust. Since the Autumn of 2017, Down To Earth Hull has been working alongside David Longthorn to clear areas of the site, remove Ash Die Back and fly-tipped materials, and to prepare the site for future use. Alongside this, Down To Earth Hull has formalised its governance structure, becoming a community interest company, and begun to develop a business plan detailing the goods and services that will be delivered from 'The Plot' and other venues across Hull. These will include existing workshops such as Dinky Digger Sessions for Children's Centres, Foraging Walks, Seed Swaps, Nature Observation, Community Growing, Herbal Workshops, Jam and Chutney Making, Woodcraft and Pond Dipping.



Photo: Karen Wood

The soft launch is aimed at representatives from organisations who may wish to bring groups to workshops, have a tour of the site to assess its suitability for client groups and discuss opportunities for joint working. Down To Earth Hull will share with participants ideas about how a session can focus around the uses of a particular plant (in this case Nettles), a particular season, or other topic.

A further public event will be held later in the year. To register your interest please email: down-2-earth@outlook.com

Karen Wood

Asian Hornet - have you seen this insect?



The Asian hornet threatens to become a very serious pest in Britain, killing honey bees and other pollinators. As the Co-ordinator of Beverley Beekeeper's Asian Hornet Action Team, I'm keen to spread the word about it. All beekeepers and interested parties should familiarise themselves with its appearance and its life cycle. Google NNSS, NBU and/or BBKA for these.

Two things are happening at the moment: (1) the over wintering queens are 'waking' up and (2) setting up primary nests. This nest

is a weak point in its life cycle. It is small (tennis ball/grapefruit size) and found in protected places, sheds, porches, bushes etc.

If seen, **inform the NNSS** (see contact below) and take a **photo** to send to them. **Don't touch the nest!** The 'summer' nests are bigger and higher, usually in trees but not easy to see. We need all interested people on board for this. If you see an Asian hornet report this BUT please make sure it is an Asian hornet not a European one. You might get a photo of it so please send this to the NNSS. Free iPhone and Android recording app: Asian Hornet Watch.

Email: alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk www.nonnativespecies.org/alerts/asianhornet

Chris Coulson, Beverley Beekeepers Asian Hornet Action Team

TRAVELS IN A VAN PART 8 – Further south

Sarah and Paul continue to live an idyllic life in South-West Portugal and Spain

We have become nomads again, our travelling adventure continues. It is three weeks after Christmas and we are back in Spain. This time the most southerly point of Europe, Tarifa. It is extremely windy here with the great continental land masses channelling the Atlantic winds into the Mediterranean; I spend most of the time outdoors with ache-preventing cotton-wool in my ears and sporting a woolly hat.

Since leaving our little woods we have arranged to collect my middle sister, Helen, in two weeks; we plan to take her around the whole Algarve region, before heading back north through the interior of Portugal. We plan to reveal to her the little gems that a package tourist would not find. And so we organise this next shared part of our escapade and set off to fill the time with more Algarvian delights.



PHOTO: Sarah Morris

We spent a few nights at Praia do Monte Clérigo, a tiny village, a friendly bar, a beautiful beach with surfers who entertain us with their wave riding displays. We contemplate living here for good, not too far from Aljezur, indeed, just a three-hour walk or 20-minute drive. It's so green here now, dotted with daisies, clovers and saturated with Wood Sorrel. The luscious small flat valley of Aljezur, fertile floodplains, utilised by growing giant squash and courgette. The nights are cold and we set our wood-burner, play board games and feel the wind shake our home.

It is the eighth of January 2017. We spend a night in Praia do Zavial. This exquisite little beach is edged by small, evergreen woods, leading to small cliffs that build to epic contorted rainbows of rocks in greys and pinks, reds and okras. My eyes could rest on this geology forever, with its perfect complementary hues in undulating forms.

We head back down to Lagos for a few days, passing sleeping grape-vines, retiring figs, youthful sweetcorn, tall white heather and the Cork-Oak's flowering. The architecture in Lagos is my favourite aspect of this little town, with its mosque-shaped windows and beautiful doors a speciality.

The iconic beaches of twinkling pale sand and the light okra cliffs of postcards; delicious little havens in the winter sun. We, with many other van dwellers, camp in the football ground car-park, which subsidises the relegated club's income. By night there must be around 200 campers; the French arriving in motorcades, huge expensive vehicles that tow quod bikes or small sports cars. There are many customized live-in vehicles here. I am inspired to create, in my mind, a whole range of future possibilities for mobile accommodation.

Becoming too familiar with the Algarve, we decide to explore further and map our journey to Tarifa. Heading east, just into the Spanish border, near Isla Cristina, we camp at a beach longer than the eye can see, decorated with shells worn to a pink translucent shimmer. We carry on eastward towards Seville via Huelva for a few days and then south; it was gruelling. The vast flat landscapes and heavily used roads felt relentless. Hundreds of square miles of poly-tunnels blight the land to bring the northern Europeans food out of season, with a taste to match. The pink shimmer on the dashboard kept in my mind the unexpected beauty as a reward.

Sarah Morris

Let's go *Flight Free* 2020

I am writing about a campaign that I hope you can share.



Flight Free 2020 aims for 100,000 people to pledge not to fly in the year of 2020, in an effort to avert climate breakdown. The aim is to contribute to the climate change debate and raise awareness of the climate impact of aviation with a wide audience. It's inspired by the Swedish campaign Flygfritt, which persuaded 15,000 Swedes to pledge not to fly last year, while gaining a lot of media coverage both in Sweden and here in the UK.

100,000 is a very ambitious number, so I'm asking for your help.

Firstly, could you sign the pledge? I am sure it's an issue that would chime with many of you and having a solid base of signatures is vital to making the campaign a success. The pledge site is here: www.flightfree.co.uk/pledge

It would also be great if you were able to share the campaign on

► **Twitter:** @flightfree2020 and here's a suggested tweet if it's helpful:

Aviation is a major source of CO2 emissions. Could you be one of the 100,000 to pledge not to fly in 2020 to avert climate breakdown? www.flightfree.co.uk/pledge #flightfree2020

► **Facebook:** www.facebook.com/flightfreeuk

Suggested Facebook post: **Flight Free UK is asking 100,000 people to pledge not to fly in 2020 to avert climate breakdown. Could you be one of the 100,000? Could you spread the message among your family and friends? www.flightfree.co.uk/pledge**

Any help you can give with publicising the campaign and spreading the word about this would be very gratefully received.

With best wishes and climate solidarity,

Anna (on behalf of Flight Free UK)

annavictoriahughes@yahoo.co.uk

DRAX- stop burning all the things!

...continued from page 7

up grid services. In reality its business model is burning. We urgently need to dedicate all our energy, intelligence and investment to moving beyond burning to a smart, zero-carbon, decentralised and democratised energy system.

On 4 April Biofuelwatch delivered a petition of 96,000 signatures to the Secretary of State for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy urging him to refuse permission for Drax's vast gas plans. You can still sign at Change.org/AxeDrax. On 17 April, at noon, we will be outside Drax's AGM in London to spotlight its addiction to 'Burning all the Things'. We will move on to Westminster to urge the government to 'Scrap Biomass Subsidies' which cost bill-payers £1 billion a year and rising. **Please write to your MP using biofuelwatch.org.uk/subsidies-alert.**

Spending this money on genuine low-carbon renewables (and investing in energy efficiency) will produce real emissions reductions and much more well-being and jobs. Even at Drax's inflated estimation of its job creation, each job cost bill-payers £133,000 a year.

Drax is no part of the solution and must close.

Duncan Law

Biofuelwatch

Tel: 07958 635181 Skype: ttbrixtonite

Ditch Your Car Day Pledge to have at least one day a week car free



Breathing polluted air over many years can cause arteries to become furred or narrowed which in turn can lead to heart attacks or strokes. Spikes in pollution can also trigger heart problems in the short term; – research indicates people are more likely to suffer heart attacks in the hours after they have been exposed to large amounts of traffic fumes.

Studies show that children exposed to air pollution are more likely to develop asthma, and lung infections. Did you know that pre-school and primary aged children are exposed to up to 30% more pollution than adults from exhaust fumes, simply because of their size and being closer to the fumes? We should, therefore, avoid walking children along congested roads at peak times.

There is growing evidence that people living in areas polluted by traffic and industry are more likely to develop dementia. Other

studies link air pollution to premature births, lower birth rates, reduced intelligence and lower fertility. I could go on and quote the bodies of evidence, medical journals and government reports. I tried the Plastic Free Friday Campaign but failed as soon as I reached for the toothpaste and before I got down stairs. **BUT** I think I can take the pledge to Ditch My Car At Least One Day Per Week. **SO WHY NOT JOIN ME?**

Think of the benefits:

- Improve your own health – walking is great exercise
- Improve air quality for the whole community
- Reduce your carbon footprint
- Ease traffic congestion
- Help the local economy – did you know that shoppers on foot spend up to six times more locally than those who drive?

Karen Wood

<https://thinksustainabilityblog.com>

Marinet, protecting our oceans



Hull Friends of the Earth is a member of Marinet, a campaigning group for marine issues. Rohan Lewis sends us the following article abridged from their latest report and newsletter, written by co-founder and co-director Stephen Eades, and issued in February 2019.

"The ocean, in all its different dimensions, is clearly not treated with respect by mankind. Rather, its living populations are exploited to the limit of what they can withstand and beyond by extractive industries based on fishing and mineral extraction. Its ecological systems are corrupted by a deeply mistaken conviction that we can dump the waste materials from living in our terrestrial world upon the ocean, whether that be in the form of plastics, chemicals or carbon dioxide.

Let us be clear about this reality:

- ▶ There is widespread mineral extraction and dredging,- London now derives nearly all its non-recycled sand and gravel for concrete-making from seabed sites around the English coast.
- ▶ One third of the world's fish stocks are now over-fished (from a European standpoint, over-fishing is very severe in the Irish Sea, North Sea, Baltic Sea and particularly in the Mediterranean Sea).
- ▶ Surface water temperature is rising on average by 0.1°C every decade, and the ocean is 13% more acid than in the early 1800s, with a further increase of this magnitude by the end of the present century if current trends continue.
- ▶ Both these latter changes are due to our release of carbon dioxide (CO₂) into the atmosphere from the burning of fossil fuels. The ocean has

absorbed 90% of the additional heat in the atmosphere caused by human-released CO₂, and at the same time has absorbed 30% of the CO₂ itself. This generates carbonic acid, and the alkalinity of the ocean, already reduced from pH 8.2 to pH 8.1 over the past 200 years, is under further pressure. Reduced alkalinity reduces the ability of marine life, including the phytoplankton at the base of the food chain, to extract the calcium carbonate needed for their internal or external skeletons.

What has Marinet's response been to this reality?

- ▶ We have maintained our profound opposition to marine aggregate dredging (which affects locations rich in sand and gravel, favoured by fish as their spawning sites) through our opposition to the dredging of the candidate Marine Conservation Zone at Goodwin Sands off Dover, and of the designated MCZ at Kingmere off West Sussex. In the case of Goodwin Sands we succeeded in delaying the process sufficiently to forestall the immediate dredging and to give the local campaign group, Goodwin Sands SOS, sufficient space to develop a case for judicial review of the government's decision to grant approval of the licence.
- ▶ Over-fishing remains a complex problem which is compounded by the fact that EU laws under the Common Fisheries Policy Reform Regulations 2014 and the Marine

Strategy Framework Directive 2008 are persistently being broken. This serial illegality by the EU's member countries requires legal challenge, but we have found no partners in the NGO marine movement who are prepared to partner us in this task. In response, we decided to make a new film: *WTF? – Where's The Fish?* available on our website and downloadable for use at public meetings. The film covers all the issues which are placing the long-term health of our oceans and seas in jeopardy, and forecasts that, if present trends continue, we run the risk of 94% of marine species becoming extinct by 2050.

- ▶ We have grant-aided Marinet member Deborah Wright in her exceptional work *Conserving the Great Blue*, available on our website www.marinet.org.uk. Here you will find set out the principles for fundamental reform of our activities affecting the ocean, along with the legal and administrative changes needed to implement them. Deborah is now developing this into a book, to be published by Chicago University Press, and we are launching a special fund to donate a copy to every university library in the country. These library copies – likely to cost £20-£30 each – will be our 2019 legacy to the future.

If you can help, please send your donation to:

Marinet Ltd, Cedar Lodge, Allington, Chippenham SN14 6LW"



Hull Friends of the Earth

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Deadlines are the first Tuesday 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
ECO Editor:	Hilary Byers, 170 Victoria Avenue, Hull HU5 3DY	Tel: 01482 445747 Email: hilary@amskaya.karoo.co.uk
Web: www.hfoe.org.uk		Facebook: Hull Friends of the Earth