

DIARY DATES



Sat 26 Oct

Green Fair, Cottingham Civic Hall

Thurs 7 Nov 7pm

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

Thurs 7 Dec 7pm

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

Thurs 2 Jan 2020 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 6 Feb 7pm

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

GREEN FAIR

Green Groups. Music. Green Cafe.
Crafts. Raffle and much more

SATURDAY 26TH OCTOBER 2019
10AM TO 4PM

COTTINGHAM CIVIC HALL

FREE ADMISSION

Contact: 01482 445747; Hilary@amskaya.karoo.co.uk

Hull Friends of the Earth

Our flyers use no animal glue in finishing, no chlorine in paper, vegetable based inks, FSC paper endorsed by WWF and Greenpeace.

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Following a very enjoyable and successful Green Fair last year, we've booked Cottingham Civic Hall again for our Green Fair this year. It is very well served with parking, buses and trains, and is in the centre of this large village so attracts shoppers.

All stalls spaces are booked up. You will find some new organisations, including Extinction Rebellion and some vegan

produce. You will also meet old friends and find plenty of craft items to buy. Linger a while and watch a few thought-provoking films with us. Of course, there will be our Green Café, run by TimeBank, and music. And we have some amazing raffle prizes!

Want to know more?

Contact hilary@amskaya.karoo.co.uk
Tel 01482 445747

ECO Chit Chat



Popular Green Fair

We've never had people book their stalls for the Green Fair so quickly! All our spaces are now booked up; sorry if you have missed out but come along anyway. You can put some leaflets out on the free leaflet stall and hopefully talk to like-minded people.

Now we need to get the public to come along, so do tell all your friends, advertise through social media etc.

If you want an electronic poster to forward on just let me know on hilary@amskaya.karoo.co.uk.



Walk along the Humber

An unfortunate combination of a broken leg and poor weather meant that only 2 of us did only part of the

walk along the Humber mentioned in last Eco. We'll think of something a bit more realistic for next year!



Hull Council Action Plan

Talking of action, Martin Budd is talking about where Hull City Council have got to with their Climate Action Plan (mentioned in last July's ECO) **on Tuesday 22 October at 7.30pm at the Olde White Harte off Silver Street in Hull's Old Town.**

This is a meeting of the Hull Climate Network, who are meeting here every other Tuesday.

More info from Lee-ann (details back page).



A dramatic decline in insects in Europe has been recorded over the last few decades. The main cause seems to be heavy use of pesticides, increase in intensive farming and loss of habitat. Schemes to improve the situation in urban areas, such as green corridors and wildflower plantings exist, but often require significant funding inputs and long-term funding for continued management.

This project, championed by Emma Hardy, MP for West Hull and Hessle, aims to raise public awareness and give everyone—from individuals to institutions—a chance to make a difference in a practical way.

EMMA'S AIM IS FOR HULL TO BECOME THE UK'S FIRST BUTTERFLY CITY, beginning with adopting the beautiful Brimstone butterfly *Gonopteryx rhamni*. The male is a sulphur yellow and the female a pale lemon—both large and with wings shaped to resemble the leaves of the ivy in which it often chooses to hibernate. Its caterpillars feed on the leaves of the Alder Buckthorn, a native deciduous shrub/small tree. Buckthorn is hardy,

fast growing and versatile. It will grow in woodland, along woodland edge, alone, as part of a hedge or in a corner of a garden or park.

Female Brimstones have been shown to be able to locate a solitary Buckthorn more than two miles from the next. This means that no extra habitat is required to link trees or create areas of suitable habitat. It makes the Brimstone an ideal urban butterfly.

Buckthorn has many other benefits. It produces a profusion of tiny, pale green flowers all through spring and summer. These flowers are highly attractive to bees, and the plant will hum with their activity as they go about their business. Most of the caterpillars on the Buckthorn (and other moth species which also use Buckthorn) will end up as food for growing chicks. The copious small flowers produce a wealth of berries by the autumn that are a further source of food as winter approaches.

Trees scrub pollutants from the air, draw down carbon dioxide as they grow, can help to lower temperatures. The presence of trees in an urban

environment has also been shown to reduce stress in inhabitants.

A "round-table" meeting was held on 20 June with attendees from all parts of the community. The response was overwhelming and massively positive. The project has progressed rapidly. 1,000 whips are to be made available to the public for planting. Grown locally at **Mires Beck** nursery—a registered charity which provides employment and training for people with learning disabilities—and funded by Hull City Council. A further 2,000 will be planted as part of **HEYwoods Northern Forest** commitments. A downloadable leaflet with planting and care instructions, as well as tips on spotting the caterpillars when they arrive, has been produced by designers at The Deep in conjunction with the local Butterfly Conservation recorder. **The planting week is scheduled to begin on 23 November.** Details of how to obtain a whip will be available on <https://www.emmahardy.org.uk/butterfly-city/> and through announcements following the pre-launch.

Shaun Clough

Saying **NO** to Enviva

Enviva is the company that supplies most of the wood pellets being burned at Drax power station.

The following information came from **Dogwood Alliance**, the environmental organisation campaigning in the USA to prevent the forests of its eastern seaboard from being turned into electricity in Europe:

Every single year, the wood pellet industry destroys tens of thousands of acres of Southern USA forests, turns them into wood pellets, and ships them overseas to be burned for electricity in faraway power stations. The world's largest wood pellet producer, Enviva, is responsible for the bulk of this destruction.

Now, they've applied to expand yet another one of their facilities: their Northampton mill in northeastern North Carolina, where Enviva is just one of many environmental injustices the surrounding community faces.

Protect Southern forests and say **NO to Enviva's expansion in Northampton County. Submit a unique, personalized public comment today:**

<https://www.dogwoodalliance.org/actions/moratorium-pellets-nc/>

This is what I sent:

Dear Governor Cooper

As someone who benefits from Enviva's activities, I am writing to object to their planned expansion! This perhaps needs explanation.

I live in Yorkshire England. Drax Power Station is my local power station which generates electricity that I use. However, it burns wood pellets imported from the USA and produced by Enviva. My kettle producing my cup of tea, is powered by cutting down your forests, destroying your wildlife, polluting your air and adding to CO₂ emissions and thereby global warming that endangers the future for all of us.

There is no need for this. Britain could generate all the electricity it needs from wind power, tidal power and solar power (Yes, the sun does shine sometimes in Britain!). We don't need to be destroying your beautiful forests.

Please refuse permission for Enviva's expansion and move towards ending this destructive and totally unnecessary industry.

Yours sincerely, Hilary Byers, Hull England

Hilary



OUR FORESTS. OUR STRENGTH

Standing with the forests and people of the South

www.dogwoodalliance.org

Trees in Willerby

Following our articles about trees in July 2019 ECO, Hull FoE member Peter sent us the following:

RE THE FoE CAMPAIGN FOR TREE PLANTING:

- 1) Planning application 19/01388 to East Riding of Yorkshire Council from Aldi at Great Gutter Lane Willerby to increase the car park from 71 to 116 places. It would require cutting down of **21 semi-mature broadleaves and conifers** on land owned by ERYC, I believe.
- 2) Aldi did not submit good evidence to support their application. In any case, the adjacent roundabout is gridlocked at peak times already.
- 3) I opposed as countryside officer and president of East Yorkshire & Derwent Area Ramblers.
- 4) It was dealt with under delegated powers and approved by officers on 18 July.
- 5) **Officers could have reduced the number of trees to be cut down by say half, or stipulated that Aldi paid for the same number of trees to be planted in Willerby.**

A poor decision.

Peter Ayling

Editor's comment: If we hear about planning applications like this in time to consider the implications, Hull FoE might want to submit our views. As Peter says, even when the Council is minded to approve a planning application, they can require some trees to be retained or impose conditions that enable trees to be planted elsewhere.

West Newton drilling latest

Work Schedule showing commencement of work on the West Newton B well site during the first quarter of 2020. Plans include the drilling of 2 wells on the WNB site one of which will include horizontal drilling.

The link below to Drill or Drop provides a lot of information about this development.

<https://drillordrop.com/2019/10/07/reabold-outlines-drilling-plans-at-second-west-newton-site-in-early-2020/>

Why buy organic? It's all about the soil

**ROUGHLY BETWEEN 1750
AND 1850, SCIENTISTS
DISCOVERED THE
FUNDAMENTAL CHEMISTRY
OF PLANT GROWTH.**

Namely, that plants absorb the elements Potassium (K), Phosphorus (P), and Nitrogen (N), (plus some trace minerals) as soluble salts from the soil, while using the air as a source of Carbon (via photosynthesis) as well as Oxygen (for respiration).

This quickly led to a big increase in output of crops per unit area as rock potash and guano could be mined and added to the soil as sources of K and P respectively, while soluble salts of N could be made, via the energy-intensive Haber-Bosch process, from atmospheric nitrogen gas.

This has become the standard system of mainstream agriculture as we know it today.

However, the soil also contains complex carbon-containing compounds ("organic" is the chemists' term for a carbon-containing compound) derived from the decomposition of plant, animal and microbial material. Collectively, these are sometimes referred to as "humus", and are crucial to its function.

It was soon noted in various parts of the world that the use of soluble fertilisers was causing soil to lose organic matter, and in 1948 a group of British farmers

Five important things about good soil

1. It is formed from the combination of mineral particles from underlying rock with organic matter.
2. An average topsoil sample is 45% mineral particles, 25% water, 25% air and 5% organic matter.
3. Up to 5 tonnes of animal life, such as earthworms, can live in one hectare of topsoil.
4. A fully-functioning soil stores and filters water, preventing flooding and protecting our underground water supplies.
5. Soil captures about 20% of the world's man-made carbon dioxide emissions.

and agriculturalists formed the Soil Association, dedicated to supervising and improving the production of food without these inputs, in order to prevent further topsoil loss. They called their methods "Organic Farming".

The effects of mainstream agriculture on the soil are real. In 1970 a Ministry of Agriculture report stated:

"Some soils are now suffering from dangerously low organic matter levels and could not be expected to sustain the farming systems which are imposed upon them".

And 1987 saw the publication of a 40-year comparative study of topsoil on two adjacent farms, one managed organically, the other conventionally. Over this period, the depth of topsoil on the organic farm decreased by 5 centimetres. That on the conventional farm decreased by 21 centimetres.

The Soil Association remains the pace-setting organisation for organic production in the UK.

A later article will examine organic farming in more detail, and discuss its methods and problems, not least the high cost of the food produced. In the meantime if you are interested in helping out with organic food production locally, see the article about Rise Organic Garden on page 7.

Rohan Lewis

BOOK REVIEW

Climate Justice by Mary Robinson

Bloomsbury Publishing
2018

I very much enjoyed this slender book (about 180 pages) which gives examples of people from across the world who are adversely affected by climate change but who are taking action. It argues that the battle against climate change is also the battle for a fair and just society: to deal with climate change we must simultaneously address the underlying injustice in the world.

Mary Robinson was UN Commissioner for Human Rights from 1997 to 2002 and is well placed to link the climate crisis with the need for human rights. Written in simple language, she tells us people's stories, focusing on individuals so that we find it easy to relate to their situations. The birth of her grandson brings home

to her how the world we are leaving our grandchildren will be a very difficult one. Examples of the fight for climate justice are drawn from Africa (Chad, Kenya, Malawi, Uganda), America (Alaska, Canada, Mississippi), Asia (Vietnam), Australia (Sydney), Europe (the Saami community) and Oceania (Kiribati). Despite the underlying threat from climate change in all these snapshots, there are uplifting tales of becoming involved and starting to change things.

This book is part of the Transition & Permaculture Hull Library and can be borrowed by contacting me on 01482 845356 or emailing jenny@transitionhull.co.uk

Jenny Parsons

Mammal survey at 'Down to Earth' site, Hull (September 2019)

Background

Down to Earth Hull is a community interest company which operates a site of about an acre within Hull's Edgecumbe Street allotment site. To help inform decisions about how the site is managed, and to support Hull's Biodiversity Action Plan, Down to Earth Hull liaised with Jack Whitehead to do a small mammal trap. This was a public event and was promoted to Down to Earth Hull followers, Transition

& Permaculture Hull, the Yorkshire Mammal Group, allotment holders, and various friends and associates.

Method

30 Tube traps and 14 Longworth traps were put in place on Wednesday 11 September, loaded with hay and baited with a seed and grain mix. They were then locked open. Habitats used included the edge of a scrubby field; alongside and near dead hedges; deciduous woodland; vegetation

around old sunken baths; the margins of a small meadow; willows and shrubs around a pond; and one trap in a vegetable plot. The traps were re-baited on the evening of Saturday 14 September, with pupae and apple added, and set to catch. Traps were inspected on Sunday 15 September from 9.30am. The event was well attended with several visitors getting hands-on involved in opening the traps and releasing the animals.

Results

Sunday 15 September 2019

T = Tube trap, L = Longworth trap

TRAP	SPECIES	WEIGHT	SEX	TRAP	SPECIES	WEIGHT	SEX
T1	Wood Mouse	11 gms	F	L33	Wood Mouse	11 gms	F
T3	Wood Mouse	22 gms	M	L37	Wood Mouse	12 gms	M
T9	Wood Mouse	13 gms	M	L38	Wood Mouse	14 gms	M
T16	Wood Mouse	19 gms	F	L41	Wood Mouse	20 gms	M
T17	Wood Mouse	20 gms	M	L43	Wood Mouse	20 gms	M
T23	Wood Mouse	13 gms	M				
T24	Wood Mouse	20 gms	M				
T27	Wood Mouse	12 gms	F				
T30	Wood Mouse	23 gms	F				

Summary

Despite the range of habitats surveyed, only wood mice (and five slugs!) were caught. This is consistent with a survey about 10 years ago by the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust which also trapped only wood mice.

A trail camera was set from Sunday 8 to Sunday 15 September and 'caught' foxes, grey squirrels, and at least four resident cats — the latter may have disturbed some traps and caused false drops (seven).

Footage from the trail camera and photographs from the mammal trapping event can be seen at <https://www.facebook.com/d2ehull/>

Separate to the traps, other species were observed on site on the morning,

including dragonflies, a frog and a variety of different butterflies.

The weather in the preceding days had been light cloud with sunny intervals and little rain, with a temperature range between 22 and 9 °C. The trap was run by Jack Whitehead, Gill Sinclair and John Sadler, with much help from the Down to Earth Hull team.

Down to Earth Hull will be continuing to log and monitor species at 'The Plot' over the coming months and years, via a combination of casual observation at general community sessions and more formal recording work alongside relevant partner organisations with specialist expertise at organised 'Bioblitz' events.

If you would like to find out more about Down to Earth Hull and the many different conservation, growing and nature activities they offer more information

can be found at the Facebook address above, or you are encouraged to e-mail them at: down-2-earth@outlook.com

Report by Gill Sinclair & Andy Steele

Editor's note:

Down to Earth occupy the site previously run by Yorkshire Wildlife Trust as a tree nursery and Hull Friends of the Earth as a wildlife meadow. It still acts as a tree nursery, and part of the site is semi-mature woodland. David Longthorn tells me that they are looking for people wanting to use the woodland for woodcraft activities. As well as managing the site for wildlife, Down to Earth also grow vegetables and herbs. Volunteers are very welcome to join them on Sunday mornings at the site; contact them first to arrange access.

Plans for 'world's largest' wind farm off Yorkshire coast



Ship being loaded with turbine blades at Siemens's site

PHOTO: Hilary Byers

Plans have been announced to build three new giant wind farms off the Yorkshire coast

The developers behind the Dogger Bank project claim it would be the world's biggest and produce enough electricity to power 4.5 million UK homes. Work

is expected to start in January and the first power could be produced in 2023. Industry body RenewableUK said the investment could "support thousands of new jobs".

The project is located 80 miles (130km) off the East Yorkshire coast and consists of three sites, Creyke Beck A, Creyke

Beck B and Teesside A. The electricity will come ashore at sites in Teesside and Cottingham in East Yorkshire.

Energy firm SSE and its Norwegian partner Equinor said that about £9bn would be invested in the project. Eldar Sætre, CEO of Equinor, said:

"A full-scale development of Dogger Bank will constitute an industrial wind hub in the heart of the North Sea, playing a major role in the UK's ambitions for offshore wind and supporting the net zero ambition."

The project is one of a number of large wind farms planned off the Yorkshire coast.

In February, the first power was produced by the Hornsea One development. Two other adjacent wind farms are under development. The three sites will have more than 630 turbines standing 623 feet (190m) high, each built by Siemens in Hull.

Hugh McNeal from RenewableUK claimed **offshore wind would "supply at least a third of our power by 2030"**.

Hilary from BBC News 21 Sept 2019



Sowing the seeds of love at Pickering Road Community Orchard

A turf labyrinth is being installed at Pickering Road Community Orchard thanks to funding from 'Back To Ours' and Linda King our artist in residence.

At the time of writing, we are in the process of digging the turf out in order to lay some geotextile liner down before filling it with chalk. Chalk was chosen as the infill because it is literally our bedrock. We want people to use the labyrinth as a meditative space. There will be four arbour seats, one for each corner, which will have various climbers growing up them such as Honeysuckle and Clematis, maybe some ivy. The surrounding land will be a sea of springtime bulbs such as Crocus, daffodils and wildflowers during the summer. Visitors are more than welcome to bring any spare wildflower seeds they may have from the garden or

found lurking at the back of the kitchen drawer. It will be great fun to watch what emerges next year. In September I planted a row of Lavender in a hedge formation at the front with Crocus bulbs in between.

When you read this, there may still be **Pick Your Own** days until the end of the season: **Sunday 13 October and finally Sunday 20 October 12 to 3pm**, so come along and sow the seeds of love. If you would like to be more involved you can help us to backfill the channels with the chalk. Then you can tell all your friends that you built the labyrinth.

Yvette At The Orchard

Facebook: Pickering Road Community Orchard
www.hullorchard.co.uk

left: Volunteer Andy Gill makes a start on cutting the labyrinth at the Community Orchard.

PHOTO: Yvette Grindley

RISE AND SHINE - with Arthur's

The 3-acre walled garden at the village of Rise near Skirlaugh once supplied home-grown produce for the adjacent estate of Rise Hall and the villagers who predominantly worked there. Slaters Organics rented the full garden from the estate from 1999-2016 and supplied Arthur Street Trading Co over this time with much of the certified organic produce that they used in their home delivery scheme. In 2016 Bob Slater decided he wanted to retire and asked Graham Brooks whether Arthur Street would be interested in taking over...

Graham had been involved in running a business as a supplier of organic produce for well over twenty years. Originally this was from his home in Wellsted Street, Hull, as part of The Peoples Trading Company, who had the shop 'Peeps' from 1992-1997. Eventually it was as Arthur Street Trading, a workers co-operative registered in September 1999 (their 20th anniversary has just passed!) that established itself in a workshop in Arthur Street owned by Giroscope. When Bob Slater asked 3 years ago if Arthur's were interested in taking over the walled garden at Rise it led to Graham renting a cottage that adjoins the walled garden and initially taking on half the garden (1.5 acres) for growing organic veg that could be used in the box scheme. They have recently added the remaining 1.5 acres to their Soil Association Licence and have planted 3,500 Christmas trees to keep the full garden in productive use.



Suzie shows Golden Beetroot, grown at Rise organic garden. PHOTO: Graham Brooks

With a polytunnel to help raise plants from seed, the extremely fertile soil is now yielding useful quantities of items for the veggie boxes. Rhubarb, Beetroot, Chard, Broad Beans and Runner Beans seem to do especially well, though some Brassicas and Lettuces have been overwhelmed by the equally fertile Holderness slugs.

As the soil fertility is maintained by green manures and rotational cropping rather than imported manures, there is seldom any bare soil to be seen, and plenty of cover all the year round for wildlife. The garden's walls exclude larger animals — from rabbits to deer — which would

eat the crops, but in my 18 months of volunteering there I have encountered frogs, toads, voles, partridges and barn owls, and also seen two species of butterfly now largely banished from farmland, the Small Copper and the Clouded Yellow. Hopefully, hedgehogs will be established there to help control the slugs.

Combining the running of Arthur's Organics with being a grower himself obviously makes great demands, and Graham is always grateful for volunteers to help in the garden or polytunnel.

If you are interested in helping with this worthwhile project do email him— info@arthursorganics.com or visit the website: www.arthursorganics.com or telephone 07949 805695.

They also have a Facebook page — <https://www.facebook.com/arthursorganics/>

Rohan Lewis



Small Copper butterfly at Rise organic garden PHOTO: Rohan Lewis

Youth Strike 4 Climate — Hull

Congratulations to everyone involved in organising and supporting the very successful Youth Strike demonstrations in Hull City Centre. You are really putting the Climate Emergency in front of the public and decision makers. We need to keep up the pressure to make sure it results in action. **The next demo is on Friday 25 October at 11am in Queens Gardens.** To keep up to date, go to www.facebook.com/youthstrike4climatehull

Hilary Byers



PHOTO: Frances Longbottom



Hull Friends of the Earth

HULL FOE MEMBERSHIP

Contact details		Payment details	
		Please note: the membership year runs from 1 April to 31 March each year.	
Name	Mr <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs <input type="checkbox"/> Ms <input type="checkbox"/> Mx <input type="checkbox"/>	I enclose:	
Address		Membership fee (£10 waged, £5 unwaged)	£
		Donation	£
Postcode		Total	£
Telephone		Please make cheques payable to: Hull Friends of the Earth , and send to: Membership Secretary, Hull Friends of the Earth 121 New Village Road, Cottingham HU16 4ND	
Email			
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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*).

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