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

www.hfoe.org.uk

April 2018 Issue 61

DIARY DATES

Tues 1 May 7pm

HFoE meeting at Vintage Café Chanterlands Avenue HU5 3TP

Sun 6 May 1.30-3.30pm

Beach Clean at Paull (see page 1) All welcome to join in!

Mon 7 May 12 noon onward

May Day at Pickering Road Community Orchard HU4 7AQ (see page 4) Hull FoE stall; offers of help very welcome.

Wed 9 May 7pm for 7.30 pm start

Film: 'BURNED', at Kardomah94 (see page 5) Free. All welcome.

Tues 6 June 7pm

HFoE meeting at Vintage Café Chanterlands Avenue HU5 3TP

Tues 3 July 7pm

HFoE meeting at Vintage Café Chanterlands Avenue HU5 3TP

Sun 29 July

Visit to Densholme Community Care Farm, Great Hatfield. Ask for details nearer the time.

Tues 7 Aug 7pm

HFoE meeting at Vintage Café Chanterlands Avenue HU5 3TP

Next ECO deadline: Tues 3 July

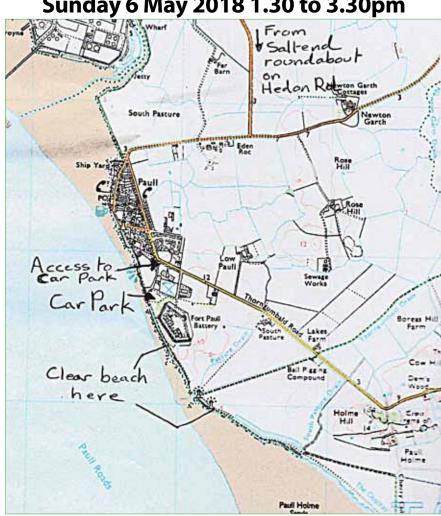
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Come and join us at

Hull Friends of the Earth and Marine Conservation Society's

Beach Clean at Paull

Sunday 6 May 2018 1.30 to 3.30pm



Meet 1.30pm at the Car Park on the river front south of Paull village.

OS grid reference TA 167257. From Saltend Roundabout on Hedon Road follow signs to Paull Village; go through the village and turn right at a bend on Thorngumbald Road for lane to car park.(Nearest post code is Fort Paull HU12 8FP). We will provide litter pickers and rubbish bags. Bring

gardening gloves and footwear for stony beach. Steps etc might be slippery.

There are a number of events going on in the village that day, including a World War 2 event at Fort Paull and car boot sale at the Village Hall. It's OK to join us for an hour or so and also go to the other events! Children must be with a responsible adult.

It's OK just to turn up, but let us know if possible:

Register on www.mcsuk.org/beachwatch/beach/paull, or contact Hilary@amskaya.karoo.co.uk or Rohan on 0792 520 1605

ECO Chit Chat



We don't want to lose you!

Data protection laws mean that we will be contacting you to check we have your up to date details and for you to sign to say you agree to our keeping them (see page 7). We won't pass them on to anyone! You need to positively opt in; if we don't hear, we have to delete your address etc. Many of you have been with us for many years and we greatly value your support. Please reply promptly to Karen's email or postal message. Why not take the opportunity to tell us what issues or campaigns concern or interest you?



Membership subs

At the AGM we increased the membership subs to £10 waged; £5 unwaged. They had been unchanged for as long as anyone can remember and of course costs have gone up over the years. Like all voluntary groups it is very useful to have regular funds coming in, so we hope you will take out a standing order, or renew the one you have got. I'm sure I would forget to pay if I did not have one! Bank details are on the back page. Subs are always due at the beginning of April.



Community Renewable **Energy Group in Hull**

A group of people is forming who are keen on developing community energy in Hull. If you are interested please contact Lee-ann on:

leeann@hfoe.org.uk



Ganton School

Ganton School on Anlaby Park Road South are a keen green school with lots of projects on the go involving planting for wildlife, building a cycle track etc. They would welcome help.

Contact Asa Hancock on www.gantonschool.org.uk



Flood Defences

Following a detailed review of the existing tidal flood defences along the Humber edge of the city of Hull, funding was secured in December 2017 to deliver a £42 million flood defence scheme to upgrade this stretch of tidal flood defences. This is in order to better protect homes and businesses that are at risk of flooding from the Humber Estuary.

The first section to be submitted for planning permission this summer will be St Andrew's Quay and Albert Dock areas (also protecting the Hessle Road area). After that will come Victoria Dock and then the Old Town.

There will be additional concrete walls but thought is being given in the design to preserving views and access to the river front. The public consultation is taking place as I write, but further information can be obtained from deborah.broughton@environmentagency.gov.uk



Hambacher Forest

The Hambacher Forest is situated next to the world's biggest lignite coal mine in Germany. It is an ancient woodland, millions of years old, and home to many endangered species of animals, birds and plants.

It is under constant threat of complete destruction by the mining company RWE, but since 2012 Hambacher Forest has been home to an occupation, a group of activists living in treehouses and tents, resisting RWE. We hope to get a short film to show with the 'Burned' film on Wed 9 May at Kardomah94 (see page 5).

Hull Friends of the Earth: VOTE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT ON 03 MAY 2018

On Thursday 03 May 2018, people across Kingston Upon Hull will have the opportunity to vote for the people who will be their local councillors.

The people elected as local councillors will represent 21 wards all of which have to meet the social and environmental challenges that face the community during the next 4 years (their term of office) and beyond.

These include rising energy costs, traffic congestions, flood risk, poor air quality, the need to reduce CO, emissions and food security. All of which contribute to ill health and rising obesity levels. We believe that

voters in Kingston Upon Hull should have

information

from the candidates seeking election on these key environmental issues. We have invited all the candidates to take part in a survey asking them for their views.

THE FULL RESPONSE FROM THE CANDIDATES WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE HULL FRIENDS OF THE EARTH WEBSITE AND WILL BE REGULARLY UPDATED AS WE RECEIVE THEM.

Karen Wood

Ineos, fracking and you...

Is fracking coming to East Yorkshire soon?

Communities from the Wolds area of Sledmere and Kilham, East Yorkshire, have come together to attend information evenings about giant chemicals company INEOS' plans for hydraulic fracturing (fracking) across East and North Yorkshire.

The series of talks (which also toured around the Ryedale area of North Yorkshire during February and March) featured a range of speakers who spoke about where the company is planning to frack, the dangers the industry poses to public health and the environment, and the impact it will have on the area and individuals' lives.

Steve Mason is from Frack Free United, which is a network of residents, communities and campaign groups who have come together to protect communities from the threat of fracking. Steve was involved in the talks.

He said:

"Plastics manufacturing giant INEOS is now focusing its attention onto North and East Yorkshire and is preparing to put plans into action across the Petroleum Exploration and Development Licence (PEDL) areas that the company holds across Ryedale and the Yorkshire region. They are already approaching landowners in these areas asking to do exploratory work and seismic testing, all precursors to fracking. People need to realise that this industry will affect almost every town or village, wherever they

may live, if the industry gets a foothold."

Another speaker, Andy Gheorghiu, is a campaigner and policy advisor for Food & Water Europe. Andy has a very detailed knowledge of INEOS and has closely studied them as a company as well as their catalogue of accidents in Europe and the USA.

He said:

"The Ineos, Fracking and You'tour gave us the chance to educate and talk to local groups in Yorkshire in packed rooms as people learned about the negative impacts shale development would have in their region. Ineos won't be able to convince the people and local councils that fracking or shale development will benefit anyone else but Ineos and its plastics and petrochemical businesses. Ineos isquite obviously—so desperate that the company sees no other way but to bully its way into fracking the UK. The fact that it is taking the National Trust to court in order to force access to the protected Clumber Park confirms their great desperation."

Tony Bosworth who is a Climate and Energy campaigner at Friends of the Earth and Simon Bowen, a regional campaigner, also presented detailed information about the hydraulic fracturing process and about seismic testing.

"We are holding these meetings as a wakeup call for people who think that fracking won't affect them. The number of PEDL licences that INEOS already hold means that, if they exploit every one, huge areas of Ryedale as well as parts of East Yorkshire will see fracking rigs appear all over the horizon.

We want local communities who haven't yet looked into the dangers of fracking to come along, listen and put questions to the experts. This is the biggest issue facing us at the moment and we hope people who are new to the subject will come to learn more about the risks that fracking will bring to their local community if it is allowed to go ahead. We need people in their local areas to pull together to oppose fracking before it does huge damage to our environment, lives and well-being."

Bishop Graham Cray a resident of Kirby Misperton in North Yorkshire spoke about what life was like in a village threatened by fracking. He also spoke about the issues he witnessed and heard about in on his visit to Pennsylvania.

If you would like to know more please see:

YouTube: Frack Free United, Ineos and you https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F8lCF1yMhSg

Google: Friends of the Earth seismic

Food & Water Europe: Ineos'chequered environmental track record in Europe https://www.foodandwatereurope.org/

Jennie Dixon

The Northern Forest

See www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blog/2018/01/new-northern-forest

The Northern Forest is not what I thought

it was. It is not a belt of trees stretching from Liverpool to Hull. In East Yorkshire it is mainly enhancing and continuing work already carried out by HEYwoods over recent years to increase tree planting wherever there is the opportunity. A further 50m trees are proposed in our area over the next 25 years, the equivalent of about 10x 100acre woods. It doesn't seem to be certain that there are any additional government resources; grants will have to be applied for.

Unlike west and south Yorkshire we don't have a lot of old spoil heaps and quarries in

which to plant; much of our land is Grade 1 agricultural land. Also lack of trees is part of the character of some areas; the Wolds for instance. So careful selection of sites is needed. HEYwoods will be working with schools, government agencies, voluntary organisations and the private sector; involvement of Parish Councils will be key.

One means of encouraging more tree planting is to encourage farmers to plant for biomass. Mostly this will be for energy generation for the farm or small scale domestic use, though some farmers are supplying Drax; only a tiny contribution to Drax's huge biofuel consumption compared with imports, of course.

Other possible projects which might attract funding for tree planting are flood alleviation, road improvements, provision for recreation, and conditions on planning consents. In some areas improving air quality might be an incentive—near Saltend for example.

A survey of Hull found land available for about 1/4m trees within the city. The Trust for Conservation Volunteers planted 24,000 trees in Hull last year.

Hilary Byers

What's going on round here?

Beverley Community Orchard

The voluntary group has been set up to look after the Community Orchard in Beverley (also known as the Millennium Orchard) situated on Beverley Parks Nature Reserve, on Shepherd Lane, approx 1½ miles from Beverley. It needs more people to join in. Anyone who wants to become involved can join up to a group email that has been set up. Visit the list page at http://www.freelists.org/list/beverley. orchard

Stephen Allen

Community Garden at Anlaby

Anlaby Communities Trust (ACT) are working on a great new initiative—a community garden and food growing project, using land next to St Mark's Church, Anlaby Common. ACT (the social action arm of St Peter's and St Mark's churches, Anlaby) hopes that the garden will be a resource for the community, somewhere for local people and groups to come together, grow things, learn and socialise together.

A lot of work has taken place since summer 2017 to transform the neglected patch by clearing it, and a small group of volunteers have planted a small area to start things off.

If you would like to know more about the project, are interested in visiting the garden, or might be able to help in some way—from advising to gardening to path-laying!—don't hesitate to get in touch by messaging ACT's Facebook page @anlabycommunitiestrust or emailing acthu104@ outlook.com

Andy Steel on behalf of Anlaby Communities Trust

Frith Farm

Veg Box scheme from your local Beverley Farm; large variety of delicious seasonal vegetables, all from the farm, hand picked the day you get it. Low food miles; no packaging; no chemicals. Sign up at www.frithfarming.com

Thinking outside the box: Volunteer to work on a People Centred Farm to change the way food is produced and distributed. Social and educational events; community social area; workshare options.

Sign up: Facebook: @frithfarming www.frithfarming.com

Camping at Green Gardens

Green Gardens embraces permaculture ethics of caring for the earth and its people and fair share.

- ► Close to Beverley Minster and Town Centre; bus stop across the road; train station 15mins walk away; ideal for walkers and cyclists.
- ▶ 2 person pop up tents available on request.
- ► Chiminea and rocket stoves with free firewood.
- ► We stock some wholefood provisions, and homemade jam and chutney if you are lucky!
- ► If the weather is not great we have a large shed with kettle, games etc.

£5 per person per night. Ring Sally and Luke on 07907 843778





Constable Community Allotment

Constable Street, Hull HU3 3DF, has now obtained planning permission to build the Roundhouse on site, as illustrated in last ECO. Building will hopefully start towards the end of April.

If you would like to learn how to build a roundhouse, get involved with this project by ringing Lausanne Tranter for more details on 07816 141169.

Library

Transition & Permaculture Hull has built up a library of books and a collection of DVDs on topics related to the environment and sustainability. These can be borrowed by mailing list members; join the mailing list, if you are not already on it, by contacting me.

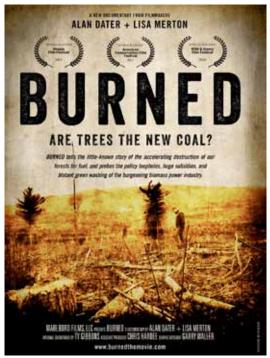
I've recently updated both lists on the website, so have a look and let me know if there is anything you would like to borrow.

Jenny Parsons

Treasurer, Transition & Permaculture Hull http://www.transitionhull.co.uk/ or 01482 845356

LIBRARY http://www.transitionhull.co.uk/home/transition-hull-library

DVDs http://www.transitionhull.co.uk/home/dvd-resources



BURNED - THE MOVIE

YORKSHIRE'S ROLE IN GLOBAL DEFORESTATION

The long goods trains trundling to and from the port of Hull with their gaily-painted green-and-white wagons proclaiming "Drax – sustainable power for tomorrow" are now a familiar sight.

Hull Friends of the Earth will be screening a new award-winning documentary by US-based independent filmmakers, Marlboro Productions, about the burning of wood at an industrial scale for energy.

Wednesday 9 May 2018, 7pm for prompt 7.30pm start At Kardomah94, 94 Alfred Gelder Street Hull

(They also do food – check out their website www.kardomah94.com)

The film focuses on the cutting of forests in the southeastern US, to produce woodchips which are then shipped to Europe to be burned primarily in Drax power station in North Yorkshire, the largest biomass power station in the world.

The film is 44 minutes long. We will not be charging admission, but donations will be encouraged to offset our expenses.

The Landscape Below: Soil, Soul and Agriculture

by Bruce C Ball Wild Goose Publications 2015 ISBN 978-1-84952-321-9

£9.99 from www.ionabooks.com

This book by soil scientist Bruce Ball recounts his youth as part of a farming community in Aberdeenshire and describes the land husbandry of that era, in contrast to current, large-scale industrialised agriculture. The book stresses the importance of soil and there are references to his work as a soil scientist, which takes him to many parts of the world. Sprinkled with anecdotes about the respect that indigenous populations have for the land, this book has a spiritual thread, in which connection between people and nature is seen as important to the well-being of both. The final chapter reflects on sustainable agriculture for the future. I found it an enjoyable and informative read.

The book was recommended by a tutor on the online course *Citizen Science: From Soil to Sky* which I completed recently. The course lasts

4 weeks and allows online discussion with people from many countries. See https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/grow-from-soil-to-sky. The course is run by FutureLearn in conjunction with the GROW OBSERVATORY, and it was good to see that a permaculture perspective was integral to the course, rather than occupying its usual marginalised position.

The GROW OBSERVATORY is a European-wide project engaging thousands of growers, scientists and others passionate about the land, working together using simple tools to better manage soil and grow food, while contributing to vital scientific environmental monitoring. Its members include the Permaculture Association. https://growobservatory.org/

Jenny Parsons

Getting Down2Earth

Originally a joint venture between Hull Friends of the Earth and Yorkshire Wildlife Trust a plot in the back corner of Newland Allotments has been managed by David Longthorn and Anne Rayner for many years. David and Anne had announced that they

рното: Karen Wood

were looking to hand over the site and reduce their voluntary commitments.

They are owed a huge thank you for their skills, expertise and hard work over the last 15 years.

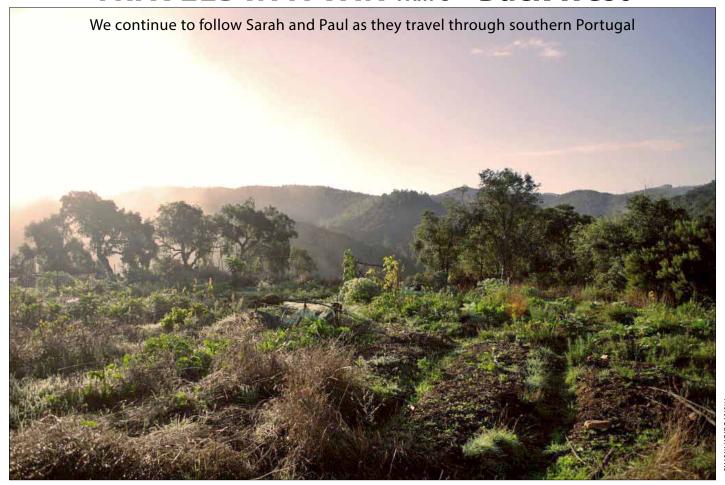
Down2Earth were developing a City herb garden on land behind houses on Salmon Grove but sadly lost this space due to the development of student accommodation.

The solution is that the lease for the Newland plot has now been transferred from David Longthorn to Down 2 Earth who have been working with David each Sunday morning. A funding bid has been submitted for a new storage container and shed. Once this is in place a launch event will be held inviting people down to learn about plans for the site.

For further information email: down-2-earth@outlook.com

Karen Wood

TRAVELS IN A VAN PART 5 - Back West



Sarah and Paul find an idyllic spot to volunteer

Today I sit on a bench at the side of the Odeceixe river, at the edge of the village where we have become locals. Our drive through the mountains back to the west coast was a long, winding and spectacular day. The westerly drive takes us to Fóia, the tallest mountain in the Algarve at 902 metres, or almost 3000 feet.

From here we can see sweeping views of hundreds of square kilometres of the south-west of Europe. And to the north the flatter region belonging to the town of Beja, almost 100 kilometres away. Passers-by take the spring water that flows; Mary guards the shrine.

A week after leaving our first volunteering posts, a wiz around the edge of this region, we arrive at Rick and Sanner's, our second volunteering post. The van's parked on a small south facing plateau of this hillside plot, that extends up from the small valley meadow. A deep pool in the stream will provide relief for the men who will strim the thick brambles, woven up into the branches along the, for now, trickling brook. Woodland birds are heard all along the meandering flow, the wet amble releasing its mists upward, like the gentle smoke from a bonfire, the cork trees etched in the sun-illuminated vapours. This is the morning.

The sun soon warms the chilly dawn and, in the still sweet air, bees hum. The tiny white bell-like flowers of the Medronho shrub (also known as the Strawberry Tree), turn pink if not in the shade. Fruiting at the same time, the pretty spiked bon-

bon -like berries, crunchy on the outside, soft and sweet in the middle if you get a good one.

The plateau holds the outdoor domestic facilities and permaculture paradise that feeds family and friends with an abundance of, amongst other things, butternut squash, aubergine and tomatoes. The growing season here would make most northern allotmenteers green with envy. At night we almost trip upon Common Toads, massive here in the south of Europe, with the body size of a large man's palm, finding mates; the romantic season calls.

There is so much more to tell about this idyll deep into the Odeceixe valley that I will have to save it for next time, but for now, I will finish with a little more of the delight that unfolds before me right now.

The tidal river flows in both directions at once, the reflection of a bare branch flickers like a pulsing vein. Then a plop, a ripple against the tidal pattern; my eyes eagerly wait for a revelation. Patience...then the sleek movement of an otter, then a second one appears. I am so excited, I softly withdraw from the bench, whisper through the van window. Cautiously we sneak back to the benched viewing spot. They are still there. The first otters that we have ever seen live and in the wild. They roll and play and dive and eat, shiny wet fur breaking the surface. I feel their freedom.

Sarah J Morris

#PlasticFreeFriday? Let's do it!

It's amazing what a difference a TV programme like Blue Planet 2 can make! In the last 4 months the problem of plastics in our oceans has really captured public attention.

After over 300,000 people petitioned the government, Michael Gove agreed to introduce a deposit on drinks containers. (No date yet, it's 'subject to consultation' apparently, so let's make sure he hears our views). Even the small local traders (who you would expect to have the most problems of storage space) have agreed to handle the returned bottles, so the big supermarkets really have no excuse.

Norway seems to have the best system for handling the bottles, with machines in the shops which 'eat' the bottles and return your deposit. (http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-42953038)

Then we learnt that even bottled water can have tiny fragments of plastic in it. It probably occurs when you unscrew the top, but it goes to show that it can be **just** as healthy to drink tap water.

Even our cups of tea are not immune to the dreaded plastic. We learnt that tea bags are sealed with a plastic that does not degrade. Another huge petition has **convinced PG Tips** to take the plastic out of their bags; others are following.

The big coffee shop firms are now getting serious about giving us incentives to bring reusable cups. I'm trying, but personally I haven't found the ideal cup to carry around. I manage without plastic bags because I can shove a bag in my pocket; anyone know of a collapsible cup?

At a recent meeting, I noticed that East Riding Council now has 100% compostable, biodegradable and recyclable cups made from sustainable paperboard and biopolymer. **Hull City Council please note**; I'll be asking for them at the History Centre and every Council building from now on.

My local pub (St John's on Queens Road, since you ask) has promised to order **paper straws** next time they buy in stocks; your favourite pub or café would

probably do the same if you mention it to them. But can we find an answer to those plastic glasses they have to use for safety reasons when we drink by the riverfront in the summer? Some of them must end up in the oceans.

Friends of the Earth's approach to all this is, quite rightly, that we need to wean ourselves off single use plastic packaging altogether. To that end they are issuing a challenge: #PlasticFreeFriday. Can we manage for a whole day each week without buying or using throw away plastic packaging? I'm going to try; let us know how you get on.

Cleaning the stuff up once it's out in the environment is clearly a last resort, but much better than not doing so, and should remind everyone who sees us of the need to take action.

So come and join in our Beach Clean at Paull on Sunday 6 May (see front page).

Hilary Byers

Your data – your choice

In May this year the way that organisations are obliged to treat your personal data is changing. This is known as GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation).

Hull Friends of the Earth respects your right as a valued supporter to choose how we use any personal data that you have given us when you joined or signed up to one of our campaigns.

We will only use the data you have given us for the purposes you would expect, such as:

- ► administering your membership; donation or enquiry
- ▶ informing you of the latest campaigns, meetings and activities
- ▶ to let you know how you can get involved

The change in regulation means that we need your express permission to hold your data for the purposes listed above. It protects you and provides you with specific rights:

- to access the data we hold about you
- ▶ to remove permission for Hull FoE to hold this data at anytime

We will be emailing or writing to you in the next month to ask for your permission to hold your

Should you have any questions please email: hullfoetreas@gmail.com

Karen Wood, Treasurer and Membership Secretary

Contact details			Payment details			
			Please note: the membership year runs from 1 April to			
					31 March each year.	
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Name					I enclose:	
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					Donation	£
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					Please make cheques payable and send to:	to: Hull Friends of the Earth,
Telephone					Membership Secretary, Hull Friends of the Earth 187 Sutton Road, Hull HU6 7DP	
Email						
				I WANT TO PAY BY STANDING ORDER		
How do you want to receive ECO?			We encourage members to pay by Annual Standing Order.			
Please tick as appropriate			Cheques are being used less and less frequently and a standing order helps you to remember to pay and saves us			
By email (in colour)			sending reminders.	, c		
			If you wish to pay by standing order please instruct your			
In print by post (black and white)			bank to set up the payment to:			
			Hull FOE Sort code: 05-05-25 Account no: 27534801			
YOUR DATA IS IMPORTANT						
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.						
I LEASE SIGIVII	IN THE BOX BEEC	W 10 GIVE	. TOOK CON.	JEINT FOR 05 IV	O HOLD TOOK DAIA WHILST I	Many thanks.
I hearby 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						
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Hull ECO welcomes news and views of all things environmental in Hull and East Yorkshire.

Deadlines are the first Tuesday in January, April, July, October

Please send to Hilary (details below).

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