



# Hull

# EC



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

www.hfoe.org.uk

July 2019 Issue 66

## DIARY DATES

### Wed 31 July 7pm

Green Fair Steering Group meets; contact Hilary (details back page) if you want to help.

### Thurs 1 Aug 7pm

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

Bookings for Green Fair start. Contact Hilary if you want to have a stall.

### Mon 19 Aug 4pm


Walk along Humber with Hull FoE members (see p7).

### Thurs 5 Sept 7pm

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

### Thurs 3 Oct 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.

### Sat 26 Oct

Green Fair, Cottingham Civic Hall (see p3)

### Thurs 7 Nov 7pm

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

## ERYC Conservatives deny Climate Emergency

### Cross Party Declaration Wrecked by Tories

*Despite the climate catastrophe now unfolding around us, and the very real possibility of the imminent collapse of our civilisation and environment, East Riding Conservatives, on 19 June, denied there is a Climate Emergency by wrecking a motion to declare it.*

The motion resulted from work by groups including Hull & East Riding Green Party and Transition Bridlington, was proposed by Andy Walker of the Yorkshire Party, and was seconded by Linda Johnson, a Liberal-Democrat.

It was supported by a petition with almost two thousand signatures.

The motion noted that:

'In 2018, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warned that we had just 12 years to make the necessary changes to limit a rise in global temperatures to 1.5c Failure to act will see a marked

increase in sea levels and flooding, extreme and abrupt changes to weather patterns, crop failures, extinction of plant, insect and animal species and global economic disruption and crisis.

At the Global Climate Talks in Poland last December, the UK along with over 200 nations agreed action on Climate Change with a much greater role strongly implied for Local and Regional Authorities like the East Riding of Yorkshire Council.'

This was followed by 7 resolutions which included requests that the Council's Cabinet initiate a full environmental audit of the East Riding of Yorkshire Council to measure its carbon footprint, identify hotspots and commit to being carbon neutral by the year 2030, and to encourage action in the wider community by businesses, the NHS etc. *continued on page 5*

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XR die-in, on the steps of City Hall, June 2019

PHOTO: Lee-Ann Williams

# ECO Chit Chat



## Mad Mad World

It's a crazy world, isn't it, when Drax can win an award for a pilot scheme for carbon capture and storage, while at the same time causing millions of trees to be felled in USA and shipped over to be burned in their power station.



## Let's plant more trees

Trees are, of course, nature's own carbon captors and storers. I know many of you are already involved in tree planting but we can all look out for opportunities to plant more in our gardens (just make sure you will not be overshadowing your neighbour's veg patch!), community orchards, in the corner of fields and along the margins of land waiting for development. See *One Hull of a Forest* (page 5). Trees in containers can be planted any time; make sure you keep them well watered. Bare root trees are best planted November to March. Personally, I'd like to see more fruit and nut trees as we move more towards a plant-based diet.



## Plastic tree guards must go

Does anyone know of alternatives we could use to the plastic tree guards which are put round newly planted trees to protect them from rabbits? It's surprising how many we find in fragments under trees when we are litter picking.



## MBE for Dawda Jatta!

Congratulations to Dawda Jatta who has received an MBE for services to recycling and energy saving in Hull. Dawda led the founding of BAMEEN (Black and Minority Ethnic Environmental Network) in Hull.



## Rohan's 2 new roles

Many thanks to Rohan Lewis for taking on the roles of Treasurer and Membership Secretary for Hull Friends of the Earth.

If you still owe your Subs for this year please send them (£10 waged or £5 unwaged) to Rohan, details on the back page. Subs are always due in April of each year.



## Extinction Rebellion

CORRECTION: In last Eco I mistakenly referred to Extinction Rebellion as 'Extreme Rebellion'. I shall not forget their name again, as XR are now a force to be reckoned with throughout much of the world, raising awareness that climate change is the biggest threat humanity has ever faced, and the need for action now. For actions locally see [www.xrhull.org.uk](http://www.xrhull.org.uk)

Look out for events leading up to **Earth Strike on Friday 20th September.**

## Haris Livas-Dawes

Another advocate for tree planting was Haris Livas-Dawes, who died in May. We send our sympathies to her husband Mal and family. Haris was Chair of Hull Friends of the Earth from about 2007 to 2011 and an active member of several other organisations including HEYWOODS. So it came as no surprise that she was taking part in tree planting activities near where she lived in Easington until shortly before her death.





# Green Fair *On Saturday 26 October 2019*

Set up stalls from 9am

Open to public 10am to 3.00pm

Clear away by 3.30pm

## At Cottingham Civic Hall 1 Market Green Cottingham HU16 5QG

Following a very enjoyable and successful Green Fair last year, we've booked this venue 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 should attract shoppers.

Growers, environmental campaigners and educators, recyclers, craftspeople, 'green' businesses, acoustic musicians, will all be there! We will have our Green Café too.

If you would like to book a stall or help to organise this popular event, contact: [hilary@amskaya.karoo.co.uk](mailto:hilary@amskaya.karoo.co.uk) Tel 01482 445747



## What will declaration of a 'Climate Emergency' mean for Hull?

Following from Hull City Council's declaration of a Climate Emergency in March [see Hull ECO of April 2019], five Hull FoE members met in May with Martin Budd, Hull City Council's Environment and Climate Change Strategic Advisor. We wanted to find out what action the Council intended to take.

Martin has been charged with producing an Action Plan for decarbonising the city, to be put to the Council in November this year. He is not working from cold, of course. Before the Climate Emergency declaration, the Council was already working on a Climate Change Strategy for the city to 2050. And remember Agenda 21? He was Council officer responsible for that too. So it was not surprising that he had many of the facts and figures at his fingertips.

The Council has cut its own carbon emissions since 2005 by 40%. However,

the report will need to list not only what actions can be taken by the Council themselves but also how they might influence the actions of others. That is not without its contradictions however. For instance, heating our homes is a major producer of carbon. Better insulation would not only reduce carbon output but also help reduce costs for the many Hull residents who struggle to pay their heating bills. But if Building Regulations governing new houses are made too onerous, houses will be beyond affordability for people in a city of generally low incomes.

Transport is a subject where it is often difficult to calculate the carbon emissions. The Council knows approximately the mileage done by its own fleet vehicles and by staff using their own vehicles, so can approximately calculate the carbon generated. But

mileage is a poor indicator for a waste lorry that spends much of its time static but with its engine running. And what solutions should be recommended? Electric cars are developing rapidly, but electric freight vehicles are nowhere near being viable at present.

Our questions centred around whether the political will was there to make the changes needed, at both local and national level. How committed will other departments of the Council be to making changes when their budgets are coming under so much pressure from cuts from central government?

Look out for the many consultations which will be taking place nearer the time that the report is due. Those young climate strikers will get their voices heard too.

Hilary Byers

## Picking up litter at the Humber Bridge Country Park

Hull Friends of the Earth members joined with staff from Waitrose's Willerby store to pick up litter in the Humber Bridge Country Park on Tuesday 4th June. We had intended to focus our efforts around the Tourist Information centre and car parks but discovered too late that this was Humber Bridge Board property and they would have required more notice, so we switched our efforts instead to the Country Park itself.

We found that there was a lot of rubbish down by the old windmill near the Hessle foreshore, and we will try to return to focus more effort around there.

Both the Waitrose staff and ourselves found it an enjoyable and worthwhile way to get exercise and fresh air. If you would like to join us on future litter picks, let any of us know. (See contacts on back page).

Hilary

# Drax 'Greenwash' award

*In May Drax was selected for a Humber Renewables Award by the Hull Daily Mail for its experimental project to develop carbon capture and storage.*

*Rohan wrote the following on behalf of Hull Friends of the Earth to their letters page. It was printed — but only after the award had been made!*

It was heartening to read in 22<sup>nd</sup> May's HDM about the exciting projects competing for the Humber Renewables Awards. But one name, I'm afraid, stuck out like the proverbial sore thumb.

Since 2014, Drax has been burning more wood every year than the UK itself produces for timber, pulp and fuel combined. Most of that wood comes from the southern and eastern USA, where biodiverse forests are being cleared for pellet production by its partner company Enviva, and replaced with single-species tree plantations. Those are forests teeming with plant and animal species, some of them — such as the Venus flytrap — found nowhere else in the wild. (The claim made by Drax that it only burns "forest residues" has been refuted by direct observation of Enviva's wood pellet plants). Sure, in another 100 years the trees will have grown back and recouped the carbon emitted — but we do not have 100 years in which to prevent climate change.

Without public subsidies, it would not be economic to ship wood pellets across

the Atlantic and burn them in power stations.

## **Why are these subsidies allowed?**

Because current EU and UK accounting rules allow companies to ignore all CO<sub>2</sub> emitted from burning biomass, instead only accounting emissions from harvesting, processing and transport. This in turn is because under the Kyoto and Paris agreements, we only have to report biomass emissions from the land use sector, not the energy sector. This rule works well for the

small-scale local projects it was intended to support, otherwise they would be counting the same carbon twice — once when they cut down the trees, and again when they burned them as pellets.

However Drax relies on pellets imported from the USA, which is not party to these agreements, and does not count biomass emissions from the land-use sector. Drax is emitting literally millions of tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> which are not being accounted for anywhere, and only by deliberately



ignoring them can it make the claim that it is "delivering carbon savings of more than 80%", and that it is "the largest decarbonisation project in Europe".

Whilst the government

has slashed subsidies for onshore wind and for solar power, Drax receives around £1.6 million in subsidies every single day for burning wood pellets. This money could, and should, be spent on a) fitting home insulation (which would reduce our need for energy in the first place), and b) better support for truly low-carbon renewables like wind, solar and tidal power.

Rohan Lewis

## Drax protest at the Humber Renewables Awards

A huge thank you to everyone who attended and supported the peaceful protest outside the Humber Renewables Awards near Hull on 13 June to oppose Drax Power Station's nomination for two green energy awards.

Sadly, Drax was presented with the award for Green Innovation (for their Bioenergy Carbon Capture and Storage pilot project) despite its roles as a major coal power station, the UK's single largest carbon emitter and the world's biggest biomass burner!

It was great to be outside the awards ceremony with the Hull and East Riding Green Party, the Doncaster Green Party, Hull Extinction Rebellion and Friends of the Earth Hull to tell the

Humber Renewables Awards that there is nothing green or renewable about Drax's plans to build the UK's largest ever gas power station or its continued burning of coal and millions of tonnes of wood every year.

**The petition to oppose Drax's gas-burning plans is still open for signatures and is available at:**

<https://www.change.org/p/greg-clarke-stop-wrecking-our-climate-ditch-plans-to-build-the-uk-s-biggest-gas-plant>

From Biofuelwatch Newsletter, [biofuelwatch@gmail.com](mailto:biofuelwatch@gmail.com)

# One 'Hull' Of a Forest



**Around five years ago teachers in the city set up the One 'Hull' of a Rainforest project to support tree planting in South America. This was the inspiration behind the name for the latest local project.**

A little-known fact outside of environmental groups is that **Kingston Upon Hull is the least forested city in the United Kingdom!** Together Hull and the East Riding have only around 2.6% woodland cover against a national average of 8.4%. **The One 'Hull' of a Forest (OHOF) project hopes to correct that and put the city on the map for its reforestation efforts.**

The main objective of the project is to plant trees involving schools, businesses and the general public to help increase the city's woodland cover. A pilot art and environmental education project is also being set up with Artlink under the OHOF banner. The long-term aim is to work with the 79 primary schools in the region to raise awareness of environmental issues as well as assist in mapping some of the city's biological assets. It's important to involve the future stewards of the environment at an early stage to continue the work long after we have gone.

Last year the government launched the **'Northern Forest'** with a plan to plant 50 million trees along the M62 corridor over the next decade and has made a limited amount of funding available from DEFRA to support the initiative. A common misconception amongst the general public is that the Northern Forest will represent one contiguous reforestation project to create a huge forested

landscape akin to the likes of Sherwood Forest. The reality, due to competing land issues, is that the trees will be planted as a patchwork of woodland areas.

The funding required to achieve the project targets will demand significantly more than the available DEFRA funding and it remains to be seen how that will be accomplished in the future as community forests in the north try to solve the conundrum with the aim of achieving the goal.

**The Woodland Trust** conducted the last major planting activity in the city between 2005 and 2007, well over a decade ago, with the Hull City Green project. Although a number of groups have been active over the last few years with various tree-planting activities in the city, The Woodland Trust in their project report identified a potential 100 hectares of land in the city that would be suitable for tree planting. We therefore have the potential to plant 200,000 trees inside the city boundary and significantly more in the East Riding.

It presents an opportunity for local businesses to get involved and follow the aspirations of **W M Jackson** who have launched a corporate social responsibility (CSR) project aiming to plant 200,000 trees in and around Hull by their 200th anniversary in 2051. The **OHOF** project aims to match that figure

and double the number of trees planted in the region.

**The OHOF initiative has been set up by the PATT Foundation**, a UK charity which had previously focused its effort in Asia and has now set its sights on Hull as the founder of the charity returns to his roots. The project is linked to the **HEYwoods steering group**, with a target to plant **1.2 million trees over the coming years as part of the Northern Forest Initiative.**

**Let's put Hull on the map as one of the greenest cities in the north of England!**

If you are interested in more details or looking for volunteer opportunities, please don't hesitate to contact us.

E-mail: [Info@pattfoundation.org](mailto:Info@pattfoundation.org)

Website: [www.pattfoundation.org](http://www.pattfoundation.org)

**Dr Andrew Steel DSc (HC), MBA**

**Director**

PLANT A TREE TODAY FOUNDATION

Saving the Planet "One Tree at a Time"

Email: [andrew.steel@pattfoundation.org](mailto:andrew.steel@pattfoundation.org)

Website: [www.pattfoundation.org](http://www.pattfoundation.org)

ERYC Conservatives deny Climate Emergency  
*continued from page 1*

The Council, however, adopted an amendment by the Conservative group which made no mention of the Climate Emergency.

It congratulated the Council on what it was doing already and instructed the Leader of the Council to write to the Minister of State for Climate Change and Industry, supporting the recently announced National Policy to commit to net zero

greenhouse gases by 2050 and to request a release of funds to Local Authorities that could allow them to take the necessary measures at local level.

*Summarised by the editor from information supplied by Richard Howarth*

## Visit to Siemens

In March, Hilary visited the Siemens factory at Alexandra Dock with the Royal Town Planning Institute.



Towers and blades awaiting shipping to Dogger Bank and assembly. The towers are imported from Vietnam and Denmark, but Siemens are considering manufacture on a greenfield site near Paull.

Each blade is individually made from balsa wood, fibreglass and epoxy resin by teams of crafts people. The factory has 700 employees, 97% living locally.

**Transition & Permaculture Hull**

**Constable Community Allotment**  
Friends of Constable Street Field

**Constable Community Allotment OPEN DAY**  
Constable Street, Hull, HU3 3DF  
[www.constableallotment.org.uk](http://www.constableallotment.org.uk)

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2019**  
From 11am - FREE Entry

**Transition Towns**

**Come to our open day, everyone welcome!**  
Talks, tours of our iron age roundhouse, willow weaving, textile weaving, music, hot pizzas and more!! stalls still available - contact us!

**Textile Weaving**  
**KIDS Activities**  
**Willow Weaving**  
**Music!**  
**Pizzas - baked on site!**

**Contact us**  
07816 141169  
lausannet@yahoo.co.uk

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Health Lottery  
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people's health trust

## Bin the Wet Wipes

Campaigners are urging the government to phase out the astonishing 11 billion wet wipes used in this country each year, many of which are causing an environmental catastrophe. They are behind 93% of blockages in UK sewers and are even changing the shape of our rivers as they pile up on beds and banks. Scientists say many people are unaware that the vast majority of wipes contain non-biodegradable plastic.

Campaign group *City to Sea* said that within the last decade there has been a 400% increase in the number of used wipes found on beaches. So called 'flushable' wipes should consist of biodegradable cellulose but a recent study by the Marine Conservation Society found own-brand wet wipes from 10 leading chains that claimed to be flushable failed standardised tests. Wipes from Aldi, Asda, Boots, Lidl, Morrisons, Sainsbury's, Superdrug, Tesco, Waitrose, and Wilko were still likely to cause environmental problems, MCS said.

The group's policy and advocacy manager, Rachel Wyatt, said: 'We know wet wipes can be handy, and so hope that consumers put these into the bin regardless of whether they are labelled flushable or otherwise.'

*People of my generation wonder what was wrong with flannels and dish cloths.*

Hilary with info from Metro News

# Brimstone Butterfly, emblem of Hull



On Thursday June 20th a group of people were asked to attend a meeting with Labour MP for Hull West and Hessle Emma Hardy. The attendees included representatives from diverse groups such as The Deep, Humber Bridge Country Park, Friends of the Earth, Architects, Yorkshire Water, Hull City Council, East Riding Yorkshire Council and Pickering Road Community Orchard, to name a few. The group have been given the name of **Environmental Round Table** but there was nothing remotely mediaeval about it!

Sean Clough gave a short lecture on the plight of **Brimstone butterflies** whose numbers have plummeted along with other insects. I don't need to give you the statistics because we are all fully aware of the impact of industrial strength insecticides. Suffice to say, the project aims to make the Brimstone butterfly an emblem of Hull, planting hundreds of Buckthorn shrubs [see below] across the city and beyond. Helping the Brimstone will in turn help to feed the hungry chicks of sparrows and such like who can only eat caterpillars when they are newly hatched.

Rosie Ireson suggested that the community be included and that David Longthorn should be consulted due to his wealth of knowledge. The money for this project is secured and it's cheap and easy to achieve. A digital map will be made showing the

locations of extant Buckthorn and then the gaps will be filled with new whips. Allotments are an ideal location because they can be tucked into a corner and Hull still has acres of underused land.

*We may be looking at a new form of environmental tourism!*

Yvette Grindley, Pickering Road Community Orchard

**Rohan gives us more information about Buckthorn:**

There are three different shrubs called buckthorn native to the UK.

Common (also called Purging) Buckthorn, *Rhamnus cathartica*, would be the best type to plant around Hull, where the soils are chalky or alluvial. The Alder Buckthorn, *Frangula alnus*, grows on the sandy heaths west of the wolds, eg Allerthorpe Common. Both shrubs have roundish, bright green leaves and berries which are black when ripe. The caterpillars of the Brimstone butterfly require one or other of these two species to feed on.

There is also an unrelated shrub called Sea Buckthorn, *Hippophae rhamnoides*, which is native to sand dunes on the east coast of England (eg at Spurn), and has also been planted in various coastal sites - eg along the A63 approaching Hull. It has narrow, grey leaves and bright orange berries, and while pretty is of no interest to butterflies.

Rohan Lewis

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## A Walk along Hull's Humber riverfront

**How often do you get down to our city's foreshore and appreciate its great views, historic significance and future potential?**

Come and join us for a walk on **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> August from 4pm**. Meet at the car park on the Humber frontage near the Ferry Terminal, reached from Hedon Road via 'Northern Gateway'. We shall follow the path that takes us north of Siemen's site, with views of the turbine components, before heading along by Victoria Dock, The Deep and Victoria Pier, to Albert Dock

where the route takes us over the rooftops of Riverside Quay (this bit involves climbing some steps); if we still have the energy we shall finish at St Andrews Dock.

But it's all informal, and we might find we want to linger for refreshments in the Fruit Market. Discussions might include where could be appropriate for a Cruise Terminal — or whether to have one at all!

**Contact Hilary** (See back page) for more information.



# 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		<b>Total</b>	£
Telephone		Please make cheques payable to: <b>Hull Friends of the Earth</b> , and send to: Membership Secretary, Hull Friends of the Earth 170 Victoria Avenue, HULL HU5 3DY	
Email			
<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.			
<i>Many thanks.</i>			
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 Tuesday in January, April, July, October

Please send to Hilary (*details below*).

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