



Hanover Action for Sustainable Living – HASL

Annual Report 2012-13

(June 2012 - October 2013)

Overview

Another vibrant year for HASL! With new groups emerging providing a keen and important focus on food waste, innovative ‘Streets are for Sharing’ events, and HASL members supporting local anti-fracking protests at Balcombe, we have diversified our take on all things sustainable in Hanover & Elm Grove. Long-standing groups are now well embedded, particularly with the close partnership of Hanover10:10 and VEG with the Hanover Community Centre. This year, members of HASL and Hanover1010 each sponsored barrels at the Hanover Beer Festival, and within weeks of this report the Hanover Community Centre will have an insulated roof. Our films continue to extend our reach drawing in new people and providing an important debating and educational dimension to our work in the local community of Hanover. Public meetings through the year included our local councillor Bill Randall, our MP Caroline Lucas addressing the challenging issue of ‘fairness’ on our current economic times. Our last public meeting in June 2013 on One Planet Living benefitted from an inspiring keynote from Pooran Desai OBE – architect of One Planet Living – now adopted as a Brighton & Hove City Council policy framework around all its decision-making. *What will this mean for us in Hanover in the next year?* Get involved, spread the word, and help bring a key diverse community dimension to the conversation and *action* on sustainability.

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Food Waste Collective

The food waste collective is a new sub-group of HASL, born in July 2013. We have worked in partnership with the Brighton & Hove Food Partnership and the Sussex University Food Co-op. The group premiered with an open Food Waste event that brought together a range of wonderful speakers from a range of very inspiring food surplus saving organisations: Fare-Share, Plan Zheros, local food banks, Brighton & Hove City Council, the Gleaning Network and This is Rubbish. Wonderfully from this event two clear local groups have further emerged to create an active food surplus saving presence in Brighton – plan zhero and gleaning network.

The Gleaning Network helped the Brighton group kick start a local Brighton gleaning hub. One of the attendees of the initial event has now taken on the role of developing the work on the gleaning network in Brighton and it is continuing with its own momentum and has successfully already done one local ‘glean’.

The local Plan Zhero group is planning to continue with a regular 2-monthly event, where food surplus that would otherwise be wasted is re-distributed to charities and needy groups, and tackle the smaller scale issue of food waste below what Fare Share does. With the support of the Plan Zhero’s online infrastructure we aim make links between charities/needy groups and would-be food-wasters so that eventually there will be well-used online resource that other groups can independently use and benefit from.

It's all very exciting, and there is a lot of energy around it.

Mei-wah Tang, Food Waste Collective Coordinator

VEG - Vegetable Educational Gardening

Winter: building more food-growing areas

The group met every Thursday, even over the winter. We made more raised food-growing areas with found materials/wood. We used lots of our own-made compost and ordered more from the Brighton Community Compost group at Stanmer, drawing on monies from Brighton & Hove City Council Sustainability Grant.

Big Dig Event March

The Big Dig event in March took place in awful weather but it was interesting to hear about local food plans for the new London Road Market from Victoria, from 'Food Matters' who attended.

Seedling Swap event

A seedling swap event was organised in co-ordination with the Hanover Community Centre, who were clearing out their attic in preparation for the new insulation being organised by the Hanover10:10. The day was fine and the seedling swap was a big success, lots of people came (we advertised at allotment sites and gardening groups as well as locally and with HASL members). Hundreds of seedlings were exchanged.

The food-growing year

There was a cold beginning to the food growing year but we grew: courgettes, tomatoes, summer squash, runner beans, shallots, onions, garlic, kale, chard, beetroot, potatoes, lettuce, sweet corn and Jerusalem artichokes....

The warm summer meant lots of watering but also the chance for some evenings of shared suppers cooked on the kelly kettle.

Big Dig Event September

It poured with rain but we put up a temporary shelter and potted up some over-wintering food crops for planting out after the Hanover Beer Festival had been cleared away.

Growing Community

There have been lots of comments from people saying how wonderful the whole area outside the Community Centre looks since the group have been growing food there. The area now looks more cared for, there is more grass seating area, and more people seem encouraged to use the area as an outdoor community space.

Jackie Seaman, Food Group Coordinator

Hanover1010

This was a big year for Hanover1010! In **October 2012** we won £10,000 from EDF Energy for the Hanover Community Centre after a 3 month hotly contested public campaign for votes in the Team Green sustainability competition. The win enabled us to immediately get to work on Building Control plans developed and project managed with *pro bono* assistance of Cityzen LLP, and with assistance from local engineers BPP. Thankfully we rapidly secured further local support from Butlers' Wine Cellar in covering Building Control fees, and a further £1,000 grant towards cost from The Southern Cooperative. So, yes, the roof of the Hanover Centre will be insulated (at cost price) by Total Design contractors on 2-5th December 2013 – *at last!!!*

In March 2013, we ran our 3rd Volunteer Insulation Event with 9 local volunteers installing LED lighting in the Meeting Room and the Mezzanine, making further headway on secondary glazing, draft excluding and hot water-pipe lagging.

June 2013 saw the end the 18-month Hanover Carbon RACE (Reduction, Awareness and Community Engagement) Project, and the student volunteer projects that consulted with Users and got all the technical work scoped out for prioritised plans for the 'Hanover Centre Eco-Refit'. The Carbon RACE was sustained by a £5,000 grant for the University of Brighton's CUPP fund, leaving a legacy of an environmental Welcome Board in the community centre entrance and 10 information boards all over the Centre on everything insulation and energy related, and smart meters measuring water, electricity and gas use data to inform further plans and measure impact.

June 2013 was also the fitting moment to enter the Hanover Centre into the Brighton Eco Open Houses event (the first community centre ever to feature) where thanks to the assistance of HASL cake-makers, tea-makers and holiday-flight-off-setters, we raised £1,250 to insulate the walls of the chilly toilet block. The weekend's highlight was the well-attended Public Meeting on **One Planet Living** with Pooran Desai's address outlining the framework's approach to sustainability. This connected well with the Hanover Centre as well as Brighton's recent adoption of One Planet Living, highlighting how we can value our heritage, acknowledge our role and responsibility in securing wider social justice, and address climate change issues individually, in our community, and across the City – being mindful of our privileged position in the world.

Paul Norman, Hanover10:10 Coordinator

Film Group



October 2013: The Island President

The story of President Mohamed Nasheed of the Maldives, a man confronting a problem greater than any other world leader has ever faced—the literal survival of his country and everyone in it - as one of the most low-lying countries in the world, a rise of three feet in sea level would submerge the 1200 islands of the Maldives enough to make them uninhabitable. With footage of his trip to Copenhagen Climate Summit in 2009 the film provides a rare glimpse of the political horse-trading that goes on at such a top-level global assembly.

November 2012: Sea the Truth

Leading scientists suggest that if we continue to catch and eat fish at the current rate the oceans and seas will be empty within 40 years. Authorities offer the solution of sustainable fishery projects, scientists say that every fish that is taken now is one too many.

Dec 2012: The Yes Men Fix the World

Screwball true story that follows a couple of political activists as they infiltrate the world of big business and pull off outrageous pranks that highlight the ways that corporate greed is destroying the planet.

Jan 2013: The History of Oil Robert Newman

A mixture of stand up comedy and introductory lecture on geo politics and peak oil - arguing that 20th Century Western foreign policy should be seen as a continuous struggle by the West to control Middle Eastern oil.

April 2013: 97% Owned

A documentary that reveals how money is at the root of our current social and economic crisis. Fact-based and clearly explained, in just 60 minutes it shows how the power to create money is the piece of the puzzle that economists were missing when they failed to predict the crisis.

May 2013: Growing Change

A documentary film that highlights Venezuela's food revolution and the ways in which the governments decision to write Food Sovereignty into its constitution has manifested throughout the country. The film also neatly summarises the principles of Food Sovereignty.

July 2013: Drill Baby Drill

A David v Goliath story of Polish Farmers against oil company Chevron. The film, examines the effects of Fracking – the controversial technique used to extract shale gas from the ground - on people in Poland and Pennsylvania. The film offered a glimpse of what is to come in the South East if fracking takes off. Green Party MEP Keith Taylor introduced the film. He has campaigned on the issue and helped stimulate a discussion of local action on fracking.

Nov 2013: The man who stopped the desert

The multi-award winning documentary tells the story of Yacoba Sawadog, an African peasant farmer who has transformed the lives of thousands in the Sahel. His re-invention of an ancient farming technique has proven the key restoring severely degraded land.

Sarah Gorton, Film Group Coordinator

Treasurer's Report

See attached *HASL: Accounts for Year Ended 31st March 2013*

Les Gunbie, HASL Treasurer

Keeping in Contact with HASL News

You can sign up for HASL e-mails at contactHASL@gmail.com and/or Visit the website <http://www.hasl.org.uk/> and/or our Facebook group: [Hanover Action for Sustainable Living](#)

Some subgroups have further presence at:

[VEG Facebook](#)

[Brighton Hanover Centre Eco-Refit](#)

(Facebook Page at www.facebook.com/BrightonHanoverCentreEcoRefit)

Hanover1010 LinkedIn www.linkedin.com/in/hanover1010