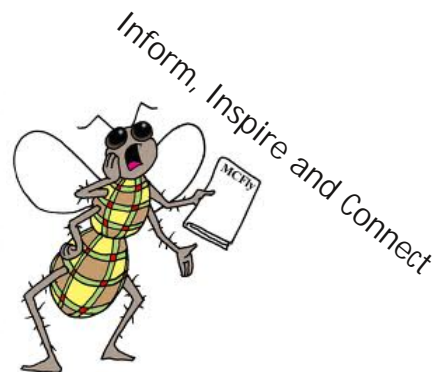


Manchester Climate Monthly

manchesterclimatemonthly.net



Inform, Inspire and Connect

Vol 1, No. 7. July 2012

COUNCILS OF DESPAIR

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Join Us At MadLab
On the 19th of July



Change the rules of the Game

Sometime late in October of this year, the rules of the game will begin to change. Why then? That's when the "Grassroots steps to a greener, fairer and climate safe Manchester" report is released. The report, which will be written by dozens of people and organisations, will bring together, in one place, an overview of climate change actions that are being taken. It will also lay out the actions that COULD be taken, were the City Council to start responding with the speed and depth required. Finally, the report will give readers the tools they need to critique the economic model that underpins the Council's thinking around the future prosperity of Manchester.

Council Fails To Work Jointly to Explore Steady State Economics

The report is being written because of twin failures over the last years. Firstly, the failure of the Climate Change Action Plan to engage with individuals, businesses and organisations since its creation in 2009. Secondly, the failure of the Council to accept the offer made by eleven people last November to work in producing a joint-report on steady-state economics and its implications for Manchester.

"We are going to achieve a lot of things by writing this report, and the youtubes and podcasts and gatherings that go with it" says Marc Hudson, one of the originators of the project, and MCFly co-editor. "Three aspects are particularly important. One, we're going to put a lot of people in touch with each other, and create networks of mutual support and teaching.

"Secondly, we're going to get a discussion – among ourselves and also with councillors – going about steady-state economics and the necessity to think beyond an economy of endless growth. Thirdly, we're going to inspire and train a lot of people to start using every available democratic method to keep tabs on the Council – via the media, councillors' surgeries, ward plans, scrutiny committees etc – so that the Council has to start working in genuine collaboration with people who are taking action on climate change."

Preparing for a Post-Growth World now

Just under twenty people – part of a broader number interested in preparing for the world beyond endless economic growth – came together at the Friends Meeting House on June 25th to discuss this work. Fuel poverty, the loss of biodiversity, unemployment, depression, carbon emissions that remain persistently high; all these will be looked. By outlining the nature of a steady-state economy, the report will also look at the benefits of preparing now for the post-growth world, and the steps that civil society, businesses, the City Council (and other public bodies) can take in the next one to four years to be ready for it.

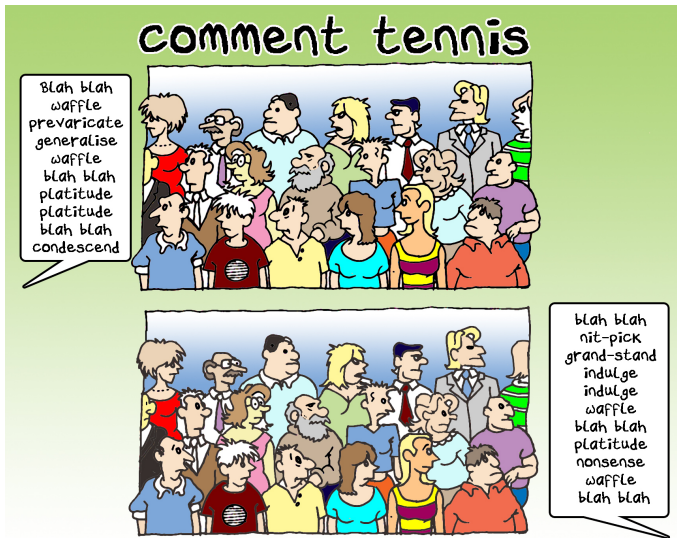
During the meeting, participants formed into pairs, introduced each other and identified what they wanted from the session. For several people this meant a discussion of the nature of a steady-state economy, and how the concept interacted with notions of "de-growth", "de-coupling" and "closed loop" economy. These ideas will be explored more fully on the steadystatemanchester.net website. Others focussed on what we would need to do to make the report – and all the other means of communication, such as youtube videos, cartoons, workshops, briefing papers etc – into a reality.

Next Steps - We Want Your Support

Teams will form around topics like food, transport, education, council engagement, business, economics, etc. The next event will be on the 19th of July at Madlab on Edge Street in the Northern Quarter of Manchester. If you want to get involved, please email steadystatemanchester@gmail.com or see steadystatemanchester.net

YOU'RE HAVING A LAUGH

Acing 'Comment Tennis'



I am done with "comment tennis." What is comment tennis? It's what happens at the end of a 'normal' panel discussion. The panellists (middle-class white men, mostly) have used up all their time (and more). The panellists haven't really address the question, but rather give their standard speech (it's the lazy option).

The chair "throws the floor open for debate." Oddly, the first hands that go up are attached to men who will give long speeches. The answers that come back will be longer still. The audience will sit there, watching speeches fly back and forth over their heads, like the crowd at a Grand Slam match between Federer and Djokovic. That's comment tennis. I. Am. So. Done. With. Comment. Tennis.

If you are too, then let's get something happening (besides not going to the meetings we know are going to be irredeemably crap, the ones run by Trotskyists and other control freaks.) Who is willing to stand up just as the chair announces "right, we've plenty of time for questions" and say the first bit and – depending on the mood – one of the three options?

First Bit

Chair, we need three minutes to discuss in small groups what the panellists have just said. If you don't give us those three minutes, well, many of us here can predict what will happen. White men will stick up their hands and ask long "questions". Longer answers will be given by the panellists. People will fall asleep with their eyes open, and leave not having met anyone, not be able to make sense of what they have heard, figure out what they think. Three minutes – 180 seconds – can turn that around 180 degrees. People who are nervous about whether their question is stupid can get the opinion of other participants. THEN we can have a truly free discussion, not dominated by the people who came into this room with confidence and expertise.

Private Eye, page 21, June 29 2012 issue

HISTORIC AGREEMENT REACHED AT RIO 2012



By Our Environmental Staff Geoffrey

Leanoverbackwardstotrytofindanythingpositivetosayaboutthistotalshambles

WORLD LEADERS and Nick Clegg today concluded the most important earth summit since Rio 1992 by signing a truly remarkable Memorandum of Non-Agreement on all the problems confronting the world (except the Euro).

The document reads in full:

❶ 20 years ago the leaders of the world met in Rio to agree that something had to be done to save Planet Earth from imminent catastrophe.

❷ Among the problems they identified were the likelihood that unless immediate international action was taken, civilisation would soon be destroyed by melting ice caps, rising sea levels, unprecedented floods, droughts, heat waves, tornadoes, plagues, famines, wars and death.

❸ We accept that in the 20 years since that treaty was signed nothing at all has been done to avert these disasters.

❹ That is why we now all agree that it would be very nice if

somebody would do something about all this, but preferably somebody else.

❺ We all have our own problems, let's be honest, and although we'd like to help, we agree with our Chinese friends who've got all the money, that all this environmental stuff can't be a priority at the moment.

Signed by all world leaders and, in the absence of David Cameron, Nick Clegg.

Gaia Man Apologises To The Planet

THE world famous environmentalist and visionary James Lovelock today told the Guardian that he had been "wrong about everything."

"How on earth could anyone even have believed all that rubbish about global warming, wind turbines and so forth?"

"Believe me," he concluded, "it's all nonsense."

Option One: Soft

"It's your choice, chair. You can go for the status quo, or you can go for innovation, and democracy."

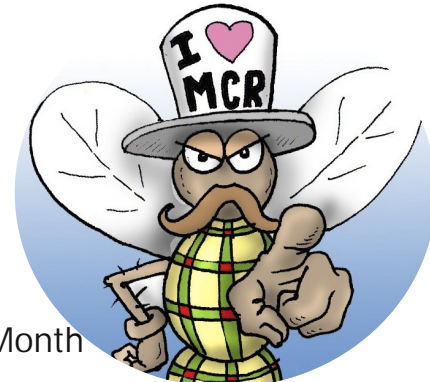
Option Two: Spiky

"It's not your choice. Put it to the room. If a majority wants three minutes to hone their thoughts, make connections, then great. If not, well, that's kinda sad. Stockholm syndrome rules."

Option Three: Spikiest

"If you don't do this – if you try to make us listen to a bunch of pale, male and stale men play comment tennis – then I and the other people who are standing up now – and others still sat down – are going to go somewhere else and have our own discussion. And it will be more fun, more productive than here. And we will not come back for more punishment, because only the confident white middle-class men are welcomed to speak. Your choice, you unimaginative patriarchal puppet."

WHAT CAN YOU DO?



Reduce your personal footprint

All the standard personal stuff - drive less, cycle more, fly less (cough cough cough). Eat less meat. Buy less stuff. Insulate your house!

Ask at work - is there an environmental policy? If not, why not? If there is, is it being implemented?

Has your organisation endorsed the Manchester Climate Change Action Plan?

Doing all that is important in its own right, but also so you have credibility (and aren't accused of hypocrisy) when you...

Increase your political footprint

Join a group (see calendar on page eight) Don't be discouraged with how you get ignored for the first few times you go. Don't take it personally. It's just the way the environmental movement rolls at present. That can change, and it would be really good if you were part of changing it... If you get fed up, come ask us at MCFly - we've heaps of useful work you could do...

Find out who your local councillors are (even if you are deprived enough not to live in Manchester City Council's area). What have they done to get the council more active? What could they do? Do they even know about climate change as a local government issue?

Get involved with MCFly

Subscribe, forward articles to your friends.

Send us news! Write for us, volunteer...

Inspiring Quote of the Month

"Too often people in groups working for social change take mutual friendship to be the goal of the group, and thus judge themselves wanting as a group when they do not achieve such commonality. Such a desire for community often channels energy away from the political goals of the group, and produces a clique atmosphere which keeps groups small and turns away potential members."

- Iris Marion Young, *Justice and the Politics of Difference* (1990)

What you may have missed...

If you're reading MCFly for the first time, you may not realise that we have a website. We publish news stories, event reports, book reviews, opinion pieces and loads more. Here's a very small selection of what has gone up in the last month;

- * Event Report: The Challenges of Climate Change for BME Communities
- * Article Review: "Growing Grassroots innovations"
- * Youtube: Manchester City Council to discuss Steady-State Economics
- * Event Report: Kevin Anderson tells it like it is; and it's not pretty.
- * A Tale of Two Ironies - of forums and Manchester's sustainability
- * What If... Manchester was as sustainable as Havana
- * Danger-ous amounts of cycling to be done!
- * Book Review: Occupy World Street
- * UniLife and the priorities of homo "sapiens"
- * Getting kids to save energy or, "Nuclear Power Kills!!"
- * Open reply to #Manchester City Council on their EAP "consultation"

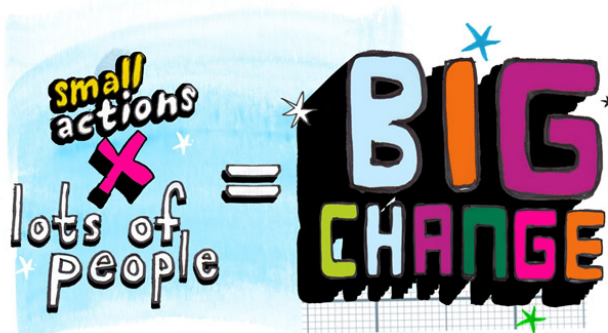
Ending Activism, a campaign to encourage self-reflection in the climate movement, was officially launched in Manchester and the organisers are now looking for help and support. Here is a selection of some practical, specific tasks that they would like people to take on:

- a) encouraging people to fill in surveys.
- b) analysing the answers, and creating short briefing papers etc.
- d) holding workshops with groups about the project and the results and how the project can be useful
- e) encouraging climate groups beyond Manchester to undertake whatever version of reflection (we are under no illusions that there is One True Way to reflect, or that ours is the best from the possible ways for any groups)
- f) encourage groups active on other issues (peace, globalisation, human rights etc) to undertake a similar process
- g) keep the website ticking over with new content (different survey

questions, observations, summaries of academic articles about these topics)

h) conceivably - if there were the appetite for it - hold a similar event late 2012 or early 2013.

If you have any comment on the above, or any availability, please get in touch at: endingactivism@gmail.com



Re-imagining Activism

Women and Climate Activism- Where are all the Mothers?

Building on from last month's 're-imagining activism' feature on race, MCFly looks at the gender balance in climate campaigning in Manchester and asks the vital questions: are women well-represented and where have all the mothers gone? We emailed various campaigners, new and old, child-free and with families these question and got the following responses. Please send your thoughts or comments to mcmonthly@gmail.com.

Do you think women are well represented in the climate movement in Manchester?

Debbie Ellen, Gender and Climate Change Researcher: There are many women involved in campaigns around climate change, both paid and unpaid but they don't always attend meetings, sometimes because they aren't invited, sometimes because they cannot attend. I also know some extremely inspiring women working in relevant areas who are simply too busy running their organisation to be able to attend meetings or get involved in actions, especially if they don't feel its a productive use of their time. The current economic climate makes this even more problematic.

Liz O'Neil, Trafford Green Member and mother: I think that women are probably adequately represented, but "well" is much harder to define. There are definitely some very effective and even high profile women activists around. However, it still feels as if it's mostly men who chair meetings and take up the highest profile positions. My personal view is that, in common with almost all voluntary activity and much paid work, this is down to the stronger tendency of men to put themselves forward for positions of authority. Laurence Menhinick, MCFly volunteer and mother of two: Actually I would say yes to that. I think there is a much better gender mix at environmental meetings or events I have attended as you would have for say, engineering / scientific or artistic events. There's people like Caroline Downey and her team of MERCi, Jo Wilkes and hers from Action For Sustainable Living, Lucy Danger from EMERGE, and every time I meet someone from Feeding Manchester it's a woman.

Do you think that mothers are well represented? And why?

Debbie: No I don't. I'm not a mother so can't speak from experience, but I did some research looking at women's career progression and this showed that women will generally put their family before their career - and I'd suggest that working on climate change in what ever way may be similar - the children come first and mothers do what they can.

Liz: Definitely not! Some mothers do find a lot of time for volunteering and activism associated with their role as mother (breast feeding in particular) and it would be very interesting to know what proportion of these mothers were previously active in other political areas before having a child. Also, what happens when the kids get a



bit older and less dependant - do mothers return to activism then? Laurence: That's tricky - I don't ask women if they have children however I have the feeling that not many of them do. As a mum, organising your time is chaotic, and all very very expensive. Thinking about myself for instance, if I needed to pay someone £7 an hour, it had better be time used for earning a living! In other words it's not free time to do what you want - going to events, meet people, campaign, volunteer, shop... And on that basis for me there was no campaigning or involvement possible.

Some thoughts on solutions:

- Involve people online: It is really important not to forget that mothers are very receptive to the message of preservation: it is the future of their little Johnny, Sam or Shaima which is at stake.
- Providing a creche for daytime meetings is a nice, encouraging touch, but it probably won't make that much difference to numbers. Many parents don't want to leave their kids with a stranger (even a vetted one with all the appropriate training).
- Many mothers have actually got time available and a lot of the ones who aren't doing paid work are crying out for stimulating, adult-focused activities to engage their brains. However, they probably aren't available at the same times as non-parents. A 'mums against climate change' group would probably meet during the school day (with cake) but if there aren't enough to form a group then use some creativity to parcel up tasks that can be done at those times.

The MCMonthly Interview

Kevin Anderson
Professor of Energy and Climate Change
Director of the Tyndall Energy
Programme



MCfly co-editor spoke to Kevin Anderson about missing the 2 degree target, the aviation emissions of Manchester's airport and learning to make reasonable changes.

So, have we definitely missed this two degrees warmer than pre-Industrial Revolution temperatures target that everyone thinks is a good thing?

I never like yes or no answers! The science is such that there is still a very slim possibility that we might hit the two degrees c, but we'll have to be extremely lucky on the science. We've left it so late now that only if there's a very low climate sensitivity [how much the climate shifts if you double the amount of carbon dioxide in it from prior to 200 years ago] do we have any chance of hitting two degrees centigrade. If you were putting any money on it, it's what you'd call a dead cert that we've missed two degrees. Two degrees would not be a problem if you had it over a long period of time. For ecosystems, we're changing things so rapidly that they will not be able to evolve to deal with what we're doing to the climate.

We also have to remember that most of the globe is covered in water, in oceans, and they take a lot longer to warm up, so the average for the land is probably nearer three degrees. So some parts of the planet will be seeing six, seven or eight degrees warmer, and others could be, arguably, a little bit cooler. We're not particularly worried about small adjustments here and there, it's the extreme events that cause the headline issues. We may see more storms, or different forms of rain patterns. We've a sewage system, a water system, a drainage system that is set up for –

well, let's call it drizzle since we're in Manchester, and consequently, if what we see is completely different weather patterns coming in over 2020-2030 timeframe, our infrastructure will not

be able to cope. Substations may go down, so we could lose our electricity supply.... You start to see whole sets of infrastructures that can't deal with radical change.

What reduction do we need to make in aviation emissions from Manchester Airport to stay in 'budget'?

Aaah. Well, controversially, you could actually say we don't have to make any reductions from the airport as long as we're prepared to cut back on our heating, and our trams and our cars, and all the other fossil fuelled appliances we use. If we have a budget, it's up to us how we spend that budget. The problem with aviation is that it is a very high consuming part of that budget – somewhere around six to seven percent of total UK emissions. So it's a very large chunk. And if we grow the airport, then we have to cut back elsewhere. Unless we're prepared to make dramatic, almost draconian reductions in our wider use of carbon, then we have to curtail our emissions from the airport.

In my view, it is hard to reconcile allowing aviation emissions to continue as they are – or even worse to grow – when we still have people in fuel poverty – people who actually need that energy to live well in their homes. It comes down to a choice between heating our homes – and particularly heating the homes of people who really need that heat – and being able to fly. Manchester has a lot of households in fuel poverty – and until this situation is resolved it is difficult to justify a regional airport consuming part of the carbon budget that could be otherwise 'spent' on such poorer communities.

Final question – what would you like to see people in Manchester doing about climate change, after they've understood the problem, had a panic and a stiff drink?

Well, individual action is important, and is something I often emphasize. But of course going alongside that, it is essential we talk to our family, our friends, our work colleagues, that we lobby our politicians, that we contact our councilors, that we get engaged across all the different tiers and facets of our lives, and we try to encourage other people. We need to get that message much more widely spread. But I think it starts at home. If we are not making reasonable changes ourselves, how on earth can we expect other people to make those sorts of changes? So I think it's

incumbent on those of us who think this is a really serious issue, to bring about some significant changes in our own lives and then to argue with others that they should be making similar changes in their own lives, or their companies or their institutions or their governments.

It is easy to try to blame other people – it's a normal response. And many of us – and I count myself in this group, along with pretty much all academics and people working on climate change – illustrate the hypocrisy between our protestations on one hand and our failure to control our own emissions on the other. We are the problem, – and it's absolutely incumbent on us to make the changes ourselves as well as call for reductions from other high emitting groups. Ultimately, climate change is an issue for the whole of society; it's not the responsibility of companies, of power stations, of government ministers, of politicians. It's all of us. To paraphrase [David] Cameron – we are all in this together, unlike perhaps other misuses of that expression....

Full transcript is on our website under the 'Interview' tab.

"It is hard to reconcile allowing aviation emissions to continue as they are – or even worse to grow – when we still have people in fuel poverty"

COUNCILS OF DESPAIR

News round-up of what is (and isn't) happening from the Town Halls of Greater Mank. We need your leads and leaks! For more detailed reports, see our website.

While we were in the Neighbourhood...

The day before the Economy Scrutiny Committee meeting (see below), MCFly co-editor and masochist Marc Hudson went to the Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee. Not quite so many members of the public (as in, none) at this one, to hear Good Things about the Library Refurbishment (one of the hilarious nine "Catalytic Actions", for anyone whose memory stretches all the way back to the 2009 "Call to Action on Climate Change" - but I digress).

The major item on the agenda was a report on waste and recycling. Because it's positive news about how the Council is doing a good job on something, we are - on principle - not going to tell you that they have both saved money and increased rates of recycling.

But what's this? Back in December Cllr Bernard Priest (then a lowly back-bencher on this committee, but since May returned to the firmament of the nine-member Executive) had requested that the Neighbourhood's Scrutiny Committee receive quarterly progress reports on the Council's carbon reduction efforts and that in the future the committee will hear from all directorate heads on their carbon reduction plans, and other big employers to come. This was agreed. Somehow however they seem to have dropped off the forward plan for the committee. No member of the committee seemed bothered or aware, so the heroic campaigning journalist in the room asked permission to speak (granted) and pointed this out. And the lack of scrutiny of the annual carbon budget report, due to go to Executive in July. The chair asked one of his officers to look into it. We will see what happens.



Daddy, what did YOU do in the War d?

Ward A Mess! #5

It's been three months since the wards plans for Manchester were supposed to be approved by Manchester City Council at the end of March. And we are STILL waiting. We were lucky enough to get a sneak peek at the draft plans for Chorlton but no official ward plans have been released to the public as yet. We were particularly interested in these ward plans to gauge their potential use for promote climate change action and resilience. The long delay has answered our question in the negative. If the council doesn't think it's important to release these documents on time, is it any wonder that no else sees fit to pay them any attention? We remain, as ever, waiting for answers and a logical explanation.

Manchester's Economy Under Scrutiny

The Economy Scrutiny Committee found itself, well, scrutinised, at its last meeting on Wednesday 20th June. With only a week's advance notice, twenty people - from green groups and also independent 'concerned citizens' - turned out to hear a report dismissing steady-state economics followed by constructive suggestions from various speakers who had signed an open letter offering to work with the Council on producing a steady-state report.

Their offer was not taken up by the Council officers. The meeting then broke into three workshops - with councillors and the public pitching in together - on Green Jobs and Skills, Green Business and Green Investment. The meeting closed with a series of recommendations and future work that the Economy Scrutiny Committee will take on around green jobs, carbon literacy and the like. There are more details on the MCFly website.

MCFly says: The most important outcome is not the constructive engagement with councillors about 'green issues' (though that was really good!). Rather it is the number of people - some who attended on the 20th, others who couldn't - who are getting involved in "Steady State Manchester". See page 1 of this publication for details of what they are doing, why and how.



CULTURE VULTURE

Occupy World Street: A global roadmap for radical economic and political reform

by Ross Jackson
Green Books 2012
336 pages

OCCUPY WORLD STREET

A GLOBAL ROADMAP FOR
RADICAL ECONOMIC AND
POLITICAL REFORM



ROSS JACKSON

FOREWORD BY HAZEL HENDERSON

Don't judge a book by its... title. This book was surely completed before the "Occupy" movement burst onto the world's television screens and twitter feeds, to incomprehension, consternation, condemnation and condescension from

mainstream media. This book is not (and does not claim to be) an assessment of the strengths, weaknesses and trajectories of the Occupy 'movement.' Of course, that doesn't mean the book is useless, just that you should know what you are getting.

So what are you getting? Three fifths of the book is about the mess we are in, what we need to do and there's a final bit – unconvincing to this reviewer – about what a sane global governance system would look like. The author Ross Jackson made a lot of money as a hedge fund manager/currency exchange outfit boss. This money was ploughed into the Gaia Trust, "a Danish-based foundation that supports the Gaia Ecovillage Network and Gaia Education as well as hundreds of sustainability projects in 40 countries.." So when it comes to how finance works, he knows what he is talking about.

In the first section, Jackson outlines "the Assault on Nature" – our species' growing ecological footprint, overpopulation, global warming, mass extinctions etc. Much of this will be familiar to readers of similar books. Jackson is far fresher in his second section "Drivers of Destruction." His

explanation of where neoliberal economics has come from is masterful, and his third section "The Empire" is downright unusual for its willingness to call US/UK imperialism what it is. The sections on the Iranian coup of 1953 is only several pages, but they are pure dynamite. Other examples of real-existing-capitalism versus democracy – Guatemala 1954, Chile 1973 – follow, and on page 157 there's an excerpt of a CEO explaining his motivations that will have the hair on your neck standing up.

The penultimate section deals with Lovelock's Gaia Theory, case studies of businesses that have learnt from natural processes, and an inspiring section to permaculture. Finally, Jackson, in what was for this reviewer the weakest section of the book, tries to re-imagine the Global Economic/Political Governance structures, with a Gaian Trade Organization replacing the WTO, a Gaian Clearing Union, Development Bank, Court of Justice and so on.

Though he does it well, he spends far too long spent on outlining the problems (three fifths of the book), and not enough on the nitty-gritty of how his proposed institutions might be brought into existence. He would doubtless say that it isn't up to him to be so specific, and would point readers to his www.occupyworldstreet.org which he wants to "serve as a focal point for dialogue, blogs, articles, establishment of working groups, coordination of local initiatives, and all manner of input."

Show Review: "Everything We Need" at Manchester Royal Exchange

MCFly editor Marc Hudson went along to local performer and poet Ben Mellor's 'Everything We Need' show at the Manchester Royal Exchange and this is what he saw.

From the opening sequence, of a slouching teenager finding his voice and spine while stranded in a relocation centre (what's the disaster?) with his bigoted father, to the irresponsible space-cake running "Gaia's Farm", Mellor convincingly embodies seven figures – male and female, young and old – as they struggle with a world where the ground is shifting under their feet thanks to the sky above their heads. It's a world where all that seems solid – like "pedro" or "rock" [poor cover for Stone btw] is fleeting, vulnerable and melting because of the air. Mothers, sons, fathers, lovers betrayed by police infiltrators, it's all in there, linked in both oblique and obvious ways. There's even time, within a performance just less than an hour, for a pitch-perfect mockery of the ubiquitous TED talks. What's missing? The most vital, but least dramatic tale of all; the lived lives of those people who care enough – who know enough – to come to a performance. Many will have come in their cars, with a foreign holiday on the horizon, and the sense that someone else – government, business, non-governmental organisations – aren't doing enough about this issue. Those lives are unrepresented, perhaps unrepresentable via mythology, but lives that will need to be explored.

Disclaimer: Marc Hudson has known Ben Mellor since about 2004, when the latter kindly agreed to be involved in a fund-raiser for "Freedom from Torture."



CALENDAR

We make no claim to being complete. Appearance in the calendar is not an endorsement of the quality of the event in question! For more info about these events, please visit manchesterclimatemonthly.net

Thu 5, 3pm til 7pm The 10th FeedingManchester networking & training event, bringing together sustainable food projects in Greater Manchester. The Yard, Work For Change, Hulme, M15 5RE with a BBQ held over the road at Hulme Community Garden Centre afterwards.

"We are very happy to announce that we shall have Jade Bashford from England Community Land Advisory Service (CLAS) there to share her knowledge on Accessing land for Community Use. Please contact beth@feedingmanchester.org.uk or call 07833 774775 for more info or to book your place asap. £5 for individuals/community groups. £30 for public sector organizations.

Tue 10, 7.00pm - 8.30pm Powering the future: your questions answered by Manchester Friends of the Earth at the Green Fish Resource Centre, 46-50 Oldham Street, M4 1LE. Join us for a discussion of all things energy-related with our special guests from FoE, Good Energy and The Carbon Co-op (TBC). Refreshments provided. All welcome.

Weds 11, 1.30-3pm Launch of Hyde Park Community Orchard has been organised so that local schools and other volunteers who have been involved in planting or making the artworks can come and celebrate completion of the new features. Please RSVP if you'd like to attend here <http://hyde-park-community-orchard.eventbrite.com>

Weds 11th, 10.00—16.00, Engaging Communities on Climate Change @ The Green Fish Resource Centre, 46-50 Oldham Street, Manchester M4 1LE. This course will teach you the skills and information needed to develop long-term engagement of civil society organisations, groups and individuals in work on climate change and low-carbon living. £288: Large charities, public sector and small businesses. £130: Smaller charities (under 15 staff) and individuals. Concessionary rates are available for students, pensioners and the unemployed. Please contact info@talkaction.org for further details. Booking via 0207 324 4775 or email: anna@talkaction.org

Thu 12, 7pm to 9.00pm Green Party meeting at the Creative Corner Cafe, 14 Milton Grove, Whalley Range M16 0BP. Including brief presentation and longer workshop about "SteadyState Manchester" facilitated by Marc Hudson.

Thu 12, 7pm until 8.30pm Manchester Friends of the Earth Climate Subgroup Meeting @ Green Fish Resource Centre. If you'd like to join us, please call/text Ali on 07786 090520.

Fri 13, 10am to 12 Greater Manchester Environment Commission meeting. Open to public - Oldham

Weds 18, Economy Scrutiny Committee meeting of Manchester City Council at Manchester Town Hall.

Thurs 19, 6.30pm to 9.00pm Steady State Manchester gathering at MadLab, Edge St in the Northern Quarter. steadystatemanchester.net for more information

Sat 21, 1-7pm Envirolution - a free festival in Platt Fields Park with a selection of marquees which will host a range of activities and entertainment promoting and inspiring sustainable living.

Manchester Climate Monthly exists to inform, inspire and connect people working - or wanting to work - towards a more resilient and fair Greater Manchester. Its editors are not members of any political party or employed by any local authority. MCM receives no political funding. But we have a Lush wodge of moolah. For our mission(s) and transparency mechanisms, please visit the "about" page on our website.

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Sat 21, 'Summer Party' at Hulme Community Garden Centre in Hulme
Sun 22, 7pm Withington Co-operative Eco-house meeting, Fuel, 448 Wilmslow Road, Withington (upstairs). "The Withington Co-operative Eco-house is a new project to enable a group of people to be given the opportunity to live together within the city in a more environmentally friendly and sustainable way. The house will provide accommodation for a household of six people, who we are currently looking for." <http://www.coopliving.net>

Weds 25, Manchester City Council Executive meeting at which the Annual Carbon Budget will be signed off... Presumably the Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee meets shortly before this, regardless of how it is re-branded.

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