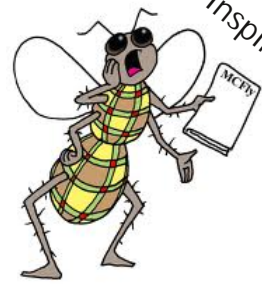


# MANCHESTER CLIMATE MONTHLY

manchesterclimatemonthly.net



Inform, Inspire and Connect

Vol 2, No. 2. February 2013

NEW! AGONY AUNT  
Helping with your  
climate-change related  
blues



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NEWS AT SIX



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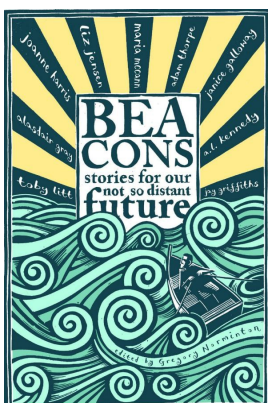
MEETING MADNESS  
- From Manchester's Activists  
& Green Organisations  
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INTERVIEW:  
Atiha Chaudry on Climate  
Change and Manchester's  
BME communities



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BOOK EVENT:



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## We need to talk beyond Kevin



Professor Kevin Anderson spoke to Full Council on Wednesday 30th January. He gave an account of the speed and scale of climate change that left many of the nearly one hundred councillors stunned. It left many of the 35 members of the public who came to hear him speechless. But it wasn't enough, he didn't finish the job.

His presentation was, of course, very up-to-date, very accurate, brilliantly presented and very very scary. You can read the extensive report that MCFly co-editor posted online almost before the councillors stopped quivering (search "science speaks to democracy"). But the problem is this; Kevin Anderson is a climate scientist. The climate change problem is not one of missing information. We know enough.

The climate change problem isn't even a policy one.

Here in Manchester at least we have policies that occasionally rise to the level of adequacy (well, for the sake of rhetoric, let's assume this).

The climate change problem is political. Not Labour versus Lib Dem. Not Lib Dem versus Tory. Political in the sense of making sure our elected leaders – of whatever stripe - have no choice but to keep their promises, and then make bolder plans for making Manchester – its food systems, transport, democracy – ready for the challenges that lie ahead.

And the most of all, the problem is one of building resourcefulness among ourselves – building practical connections between individuals and communities, sharing skills and solutions and solidarity. Kevin is a scientist. He provides information. He's inordinately good at that. But it's not enough.

*Continued on page 6...*

# AGONY AUNT



Dear Miss Movements,  
in a couple of weeks I  
will chair a big public  
meeting with a  
prestigious speaker.  
He is very fond of  
the sound of his own  
voice, and notorious

for ignoring the "five  
minute" and "one minute" bits  
of paper. How do I stop him ignoring me  
and draining the time and energy from  
the meeting without pissing him off and  
looking like an incompetent fascist?

- Tremendously Irritating Meetings  
I inevitably Drone

No need to be timid, TIMID, when you can be  
smart. As part of your audience warm-up  
(you do do one of those, right?) you say  
something like "Hello everyone, we have a  
fantastic speaker tonight. I know many of  
you have to get away promptly – and public  
transport and baby-sitters wait for no-one -  
so we are going to make sure you all get to  
applaud him. I am going to let him know  
when there's a minute left, and then  
promptly after that time is up I will start  
applauding, and I will want you to applaud  
with me. Shall we practice it now?"

There isn't a man alive (with the possible  
exceptions of Kanye West and Marc Hudson)  
who can keep talking after that. But just in  
case, have your rape alarm handy...

Finally, is it just me or is there a problem  
with old white men (am I right or am I right)  
not knowing when to shut the hell up  
already? In private, you might suggest to him  
that he learns to keep his ego on a leash? Or  
send him an anonymous letter, if you think  
he would react badly.

Disclaimer: All allusions and insinuations to  
people living in Manchester are entirely  
intentional.

# THE MONTH AHEAD

'Wangari Maathai – some lessons from the  
Global South for a Steady State Manchester'

Talk with Judith Emanuel of Steady State  
Manchester organised by Manchester Ragged

19th February, 7pm – 10pm  
@ The Castle Hotel, 66 Oldham Street, M4 1LE  
[www.ragged-online.com](http://www.ragged-online.com)



## VOLUNTEER SHOUT OUT!!!!!!!

AfSL needs people to help us out on a stall in the Arndale on  
Saturday the 9th March. We need people to help run  
creative upcycling workshops, seed planting, bike maintenance, talk  
about your projects etc... the options are endless as long as they are  
fun and interactive! Please share your ideas and get in touch via  
[joanne.wilkes@afsl.org.uk](mailto:joanne.wilkes@afsl.org.uk) as soon as possible.

## FOUNDATION in NONVIOLENT COMMUNICATION

This two day foundation course  
will support you in:

- Recognising when your buttons  
get pushed and helping you  
change your habitual reactions
- Hearing difficult messages  
without typical reactions of  
rejection, hurt or blame
- Using strategies that help  
ease conflict
- Caring for people without  
getting burnt out

THE YARD THEATRE, HULME,  
MANCHESTER

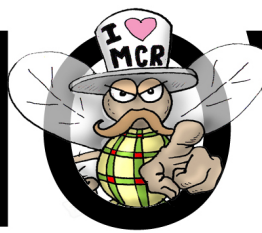
Saturday 9th & Sunday 10th March 2013

To book or for more information contact

Chiara Addis  
tel 07791139047 email [chiaraddis@hotmail.com](mailto:chiaraddis@hotmail.com)



# ACT NOW



## 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) or go to an event. You could also volunteer with Cooler Projects on their Carbon Literacy programme - see [www.coolerprojects.com](http://www.coolerprojects.com)

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

“

“Those of us who spend our days trawling – and contributing to – the scientific literature on climate change are becoming increasingly gloomy about the future of human civilisation,” said Liz Hanna, convener of the human health division at the Australian National University's Climate Change Adaptation Network. “We are well past the time of niceties, of avoiding the dire nature of what is unfolding, and politely trying not to scare the public. The unparalleled setting of new heat extremes is forcing the continual upwards trending of warming predictions for the future, and the time-scale is contracting.”

”

## 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. Go to [manchesterclimatemonthly.net](http://manchesterclimatemonthly.net)



## AT THE COALFACE



Pete Kilvert -  
Breathe Clean  
Air Group

### What is your campaign trying to achieve?

The Breathe Clean Air Group is campaigning to STOP the building of the Barton Renewable Energy Plant in Davyhulme, Trafford. This is to burn waste wood and other waste at the relatively low temperature of 850 degrees C using an out-dated bag filtration system and a chimney stack which is half the height it should be.

### Why did you get involved?

As a retired Health and Safety Officer and former Chemical Analyst, I knew that air pollution from this type of plant would have serious health impacts on the local community and beyond. When I went to the first committee meeting of the new group I felt they needed someone to chair the meeting so I volunteered. I love my local community and don't want to see it slide into decay if it has an incinerator in its midst.

### What sustains you?

After more than 50 years of campaigning, beginning with trying to stop the war in Vietnam, I still have to get involved. It's frustrating when not many other people get involved, but very rewarding when younger people join a campaign for the first time & make a difference.

### What was the last big success your team had?

We've had to raise over £20,000 to pay for our legal costs at the Public Inquiry held last November and held a very successful series of fundraising events. At the Public Inquiry, we managed to get 200 members of the public to attend and 60 people (included 20 Trafford Councillors, Salford Council's Assistant Mayor for Health, two local clergymen and doctors) to speak out against the proposal.

[www.breathecleanairgroup.co.uk](http://www.breathecleanairgroup.co.uk)





# The MCFly INTERVIEW



Atiha Chaudry  
Chair of  
Manchester BME  
Network  
(MBMEN)



Whilst it's easy to think that all those people 'really vulnerable' to climate change live in far away places, the truth is they don't. They live in cities great and small all over the world. And there are some living right here in Manchester. Who are they? Well, there are the marginalised, the socially, economically and politically vulnerable. They are our old, our BME, our asylum seekers and refugees and whilst our climate keeps changing, we ought to figure out a way to protect them.

Last year, the Manchester BME Network got £15,000 from Defra to do exactly that. They were tasked with "mapping the needs of BME, older people and refugee and asylum communities to better understand their needs and concerns about the impact of a changing climate." The project also wanted to find the gaps and consider how these might be addressed. The project is led by Muslim Communities UK (MC-UK) with direct support from Manchester BME Network (MBMEN), Salford Refugee Forum and Creative Hands Foundation. The partners interviewed 100 people and held four focus groups.

Ahead of the final report which will be released next week, MCFly caught up with Atiha Chaudry, from MBMEN, to talk about their findings and what happens next.

Could you tell us a little about the Manchester BME network and the work it does?

The MBMEN is a well established network supporting BME groups and organisations in Manchester. It holds regular networking meetings addressing key issues relevant to the BME sector and brings together a diverse range of groups, individuals and local stakeholders to meet and share knowledge and experience. The Network delivers a range of projects and currently is involved in the following: a partnership with FareShare to address the issue of food redistribution and meet the needs of those in most need; climate change and its impact on the BME sector; safeguarding and supplementary schools; sexual health and BME women.

You mention that the network has been involved in climate change before. Could you tell us what form the project took and why

you were keen to tackle this issue?

We were invited by NCVO a year ago to work with them on a pilot project in Greater Manchester which would look at working with a cohort of 20 BME groups. We brought together these groups and sat on the steering group for delivering this project. It involved 3 workshops to build knowledge and understanding of climate change, disseminate this to others the groups work with and build a better awareness in the local communities. This was really successful and led to the success of the bid to Defra for a £15,000 grant for further work gathering evidence of need and developing solutions. The NCVO work will be presented at a national conference where we will have the opportunity to share our experience and influence the national strategy.

Why do you feel it's important to explore the climate change and BME link now?

Because, many BME communities need more awareness and connection to local strategies so that the particular concerns of BME communities are taken on board. BME communities also have an added concern about the impacts of climate change to their friends and family in their country of origin as well as the overall impact of this on wider issues (eg foods they are used to eating from their countries of heritage).

"BME communities are also concerned about the impacts of climate change on their friends and family in their country of origin..."

What do you hope to do with these findings and the information that emerges from your research?

We hope to produce a toolkit that addresses the concerns people share with us so that it can provide advice and support. We are also holding a conference at the end of the project (end of March) to share our findings, engage the strategic and wider sector, influence local work and national strategy and look at ways to continue the work we have started.

Is the funding for research only or will some be available to implement some findings?

It's for research only but we are hopeful that through engaging local stakeholders we can continue the work.

For the full interview and more MCFly interviews go to [manchesterclimatemonthly.net/interviews/](http://manchesterclimatemonthly.net/interviews/)



# We've Got To Stop Meeting Like This



Recently the MCFly co-editors held a meeting in silence. If you know them, you'd find that hard to believe. But it's true and there was a point to it. We'd invited various people from several environmental groups to be guinea pigs for a new skill-sharing project called "Activist Skills and Knowledge" ([www.askfortheworld.net](http://www.askfortheworld.net)). We committed everyone to silence, and then mimed them through a series of tasks – such as mingling with everyone else and looking at their name badges, and writing down things they were very good at and things they were not good at.

Within a couple of minutes several people were getting quite disorientated and/or confused. Why did we do this (other than native sadism)? Because we wanted experienced activists to get a taste of what it is like to be speechless and not really sure what the hell is going on in the room. That's how "new" people in meetings often feel. And you know, we rarely see them again. That has to change.

Well, from this issue of Manchester Climate Monthly onwards, we are going to have a page of people's thoughts on issues around "movement-building".

Probable order of upcoming questions:

Feb – How do we maintain morale so that people who are already "in" the movement don't drift away/leave in despair?

March – How do we get more people (especially ones who don't look like us; white, middle-class, child-free) involved in the "climate movement"?

April – How do we attract back people who were involved but have become burnt out/disenchanted/engaged in other things.

May – What are the particular difficulties groups trying to tackle "climate change" face?

June – What do people need (skills, knowledge, other stuff) in order to stay involved in the "climate movement"?

July – What lessons can we learn from other movements (local or elsewhere, present or past)

August – How do we make sure we learn and share (the right lessons) from our successes and failures?

Please get in touch if you have anything you'd like to share on the topics above. Email us on [mcmmonthly@gmail.com](mailto:mcmmonthly@gmail.com)



PMT?? Stands for "Practical MCFly Tasks." Every Wednesday we are going to ask readers to do something (usually something simple and quick, but occasionally a bit more complex and a bit longer). That "something" might be "publicise the latest issue of MCFly on facebook" or it might be "respond to this consultation" or it might be something else. If your group has something that you'd like to see in this slot, email us at [mcmmonthly@gmail.com](mailto:mcmmonthly@gmail.com)

Here's another way you can help build a stronger and more connected environmental movement in Manchester

**"MCFly: giving you PMT every week of the year."**





# NEWS AT SIX

*Continued from front page...*

Climate change is scary though, and there lurks a danger in ourselves. In our fear, we may become paralyzed, and expect some expert, some leader, to take responsibility, to be the shepherd to our sheep. That never ends well.

We cannot wait for the official "Steering Group" to get its act together. Despite repeated promises, it never has. It may never do so. We cannot rely solely on the Council – soon to be 100% Labour - which perpetrates such triumphs of democratic process and common sense as the razing of hundreds of trees in Alexandra Park. And we cannot assume that non-governmental organisations, charities and the like will magically start to do the job they haven't done for 30 years. No-one will do this "for us". We will have to do it ourselves. Not each on their own, but together.

We at Manchester Climate Monthly have plans and proposals for how we – citizens of Manchester – can create the changes we need. We are putting these out for comment and improvement in the coming days and weeks. They really don't need (much) money. They certainly don't need superhuman strength or intelligence, or every one of your waking hours. They need passion, but also passion's estranged step-sister, commitment. They need regular, relentless commitment of, say, an hour a week. (More if you want!). In return, you will learn many new skills, make many new friends. And help make Manchester the resourceful (not resilient – resourceful) place it needs to be.

Professor Kevin Anderson spoke to Full Council on Wednesday 30th January. It wasn't enough, he didn't finish the job. You can. Your choice. Email us today – [mcmmonthly@gmail.com](mailto:mcmmonthly@gmail.com).

Off with their heads! Or rather the farce goes "on with their heads"

The deafening silence continues on who – if anybody – has been appointed to the crucial roles of the chairs of the various sub-groups that are supposed to be hosting the Steering Group's meetings. A month ago Steve Connor, outgoing chair of the Steering Group, promised to post answers to questions posed by MCFly. That promise has not, yet, been kept. Nor has the one – made in public last March – about elections to the Steering Group at the 2013 conference.

## Stakeholder "conference"

The three and a half hour long Stakeholder "conference" is almost upon us. Despite being annual, and therefore no surprise, this one is being cobbled together at the last minute. It emerges that even more of the three and a half hour running time will be swallowed up with puffery – now from Leeds and Liverpool. Applicants will find out imminently if they are considered suitable attendees. MCFly's co-editors have applied (with gritted teeth). Our advice to anyone who is going? Keep your expectations really really low. Then the disappointment will only be ickle. The real challenge is how to make sure the 2014 conference is not the shambles the 2012 one was, and the 2013 one will be. See our Sunday 3rd February blog post "Sending all the wrong signals on climate action in Manchester"

## Greater Manchester Climate Change "Strategy" "Implementation" "Plan"

We gave up reporting on this endlessly delayed farce some months ago. Clearly though, someone got just as bored as us and insisted that something – anything – be submitted at last month's Greater Manchester Combined Authority. Because, you see, the "Implementation" "Plan" is neither. It is another shopping list of vague promises, with no deadlines, no budgets, no matrices of who is going to do what by when. More analysis to follow, but for now, all you need to know is this:

"Approval does not entail making commitments to specific projects or programmes at a GM or District level nor does it entail making commitments to expenditure: such commitments will all be made on individual projects as they are developed and agreed by the relevant stakeholders."

"Approval of the Plan does not, of itself, have any specific financial implications for GM, for Districts or for key partners over and above the project and programme commitments that all these stakeholders are already undertaking. It does provide the Low Carbon Hub Board with a high level three year framework of actions and targets that provides integration with other GM strategies and it has potential implications for further development of joint working and further savings at District level."

Translation – "Yo, Leaders! You can sign off on this and no-one will be able to ask you to spend a penny. And it will be out of your in-tray too."

SEND US YOUR  
**NEWS!**



Email: [mcmmonthly@gmail.com](mailto:mcmmonthly@gmail.com)  
Twitter: [@mcr\\_climate](https://twitter.com/mcr_climate)





# CULTURE VULTURE

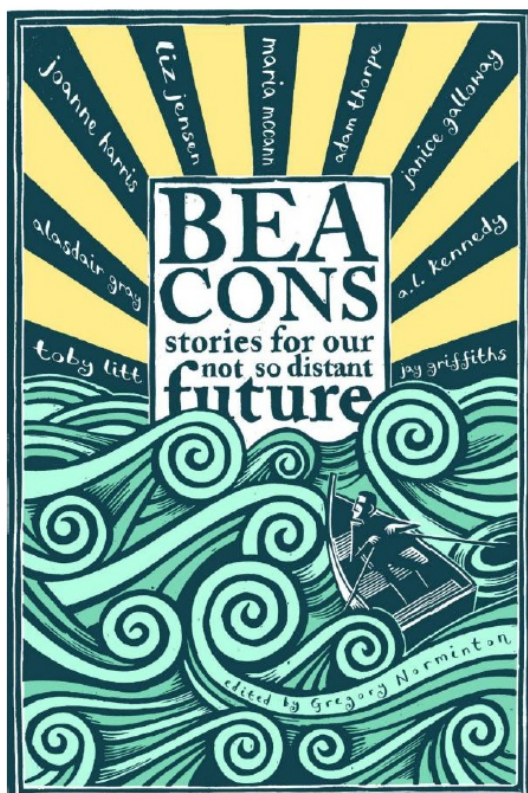
## Beacons: stories for our not so distant future

Thursday 7th March, 6.30pm - 8.30pm (Refreshments on sale from 6pm)

**International Anthony Burgess Foundation**

Engine House, Chorlton Mill, 3 Cambridge Street, Manchester M1 5BY

**Free event, no need to book**



The Manchester Writing School at MMU, Manchester Literature Festival and Steady State Manchester invite you to explore how literature can connect us with the predicaments of our age.

**Clare Dudman** (scientist by training and author of three novels including *A Place of Meadows and Tall Trees*) and **Rodge Glass** (author of three novels including *Bring Me the Head of Ryan Giggs* and Somerset Maugham Award- winning biography of Alasdair Gray), have contributed to BEA CONS, a collection of twenty-one original stories by major UK authors. The stories are inspired by, and will be sold for the benefit of, the Stop Climate Chaos Coalition.

BEA CONS editor **Gregory Norminton** (author of four novels including the highly acclaimed *Serious Things* and creative writing teacher at MMU) and the authors will discuss the challenges of writing about complex issues such as climate change. The readings will be followed by conversations exploring if and how literature can inspire us to think or act differently, and motivate us to create a sustainable future.

**For more information visit:**

[mmu.ac.uk/english/the-manchester-writing-school](http://mmu.ac.uk/english/the-manchester-writing-school)

[manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk](http://manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk)

[stopclimatechaos.org](http://stopclimatechaos.org)

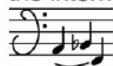
[steadystatemanchester.net](http://steadystatemanchester.net)

[www.anthonyburgess.org](http://www.anthonyburgess.org)



Manchester  
Literature  
Festival

the international



Anthony Burgess  
foundation



**Steady State Manchester**  
[steadystatemanchester.net](http://steadystatemanchester.net)

# CALENDAR

Inclusion in this calendar is NOT a guarantee of quality. If we think something is extremely likely to be worth your time, then we will put one or more little "thumbs up" icons next to it. We a) are maybe prejudiced about some groups b) have specific criteria about usefulness and c) could be wrong.

For full listing go to our online calendar at [manchesterclimatemonthly.net/the-calendar/](http://manchesterclimatemonthly.net/the-calendar/)

Mon 11, 7pm AGM of Greater Manchester Cycling Campaign at Friends Meeting House, Mount Street, M2 5NS, close to Manchester Town Hall.

Tues 12, 6.45pm to 9pm Manchester Friends of the Earth Full Group Meeting, Greenfish Resource Centre, Oldham St.

[www.manchesterfoe.org.uk/](http://www.manchesterfoe.org.uk/)

Fri 15 – Mon 18, Stop The Great Fuel Robbery. A national weekend of assemblies and action Nationwide! Organise your own assembly in your area...Visit at [fuelpovertyaction.org.uk](http://fuelpovertyaction.org.uk) or [facebook.com/fuelpovertyaction](https://facebook.com/fuelpovertyaction). Email us at [fuelpovertyaction@gmail.com](mailto:fuelpovertyaction@gmail.com) or contact us on 07586 482 157.

Sat 16, Commercial Organic Veg Growing starts. Contact Kindling Trust for more info.

Tues 19, 7-10pm "Wangari Maathai – some lessons from the Global South for a Steady State

Manchester" Judith Emanuel of Steady State Manchester. Talk organised by Manchester Ragged at the Castle Hotel, Oldham St.

Tues 19, 7-9pm Greater Manchester Anti-Fracking and Climate Activist Meeting. This meeting aims to begin a discussion amongst local anti-fracking and climate activists, as well as other environmental campaigners, on how we might best work together across the city region as well as regionally and nationally to stop it. Friends Meeting House, behind central library on St Peters Square.

[www.facebook.com/events/329085903876625/](https://www.facebook.com/events/329085903876625/)

Mon 25, 6pm Showing of "Soylent Green" as part of the Manchester Climate Monthly film festival, in conjunction with "Trauma".

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The Freewheeling adult cycle training is available free-of-charge for people, aged over 16, who live in Manchester or work for Manchester NHS.

The Freewheeling cycle training offers:

- + Courses for absolute beginners through to experienced riders
- + Free bikes and helmets during the training
- + Up to 3 free sessions per person
- + A friendly, informal approach

[www.bikeright.co.uk](http://www.bikeright.co.uk)

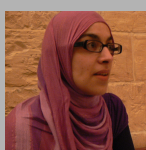


Manchester Climate Monthly exists to inform, inspire and connect people working - or wanting to work - towards a more resilient and fair Greater Manchester. Its editors are not members of any political party or employed by any local authority. MCM receives no political funding. But we have a Lush wodge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

twitter: @mcr\_climate

scribd: [www.scribd.com/ManchesterClimate](http://www.scribd.com/ManchesterClimate)

Editors: Arwa Aburawa and Marc Hudson



Cartoonist: Marc Roberts [www.marcrobertscartoons.com](http://www.marcrobertscartoons.com)

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