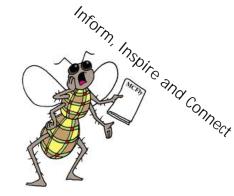
manchesterclimatemonthly.net





Vol 2, No. 3. March 2013

AGONY AUNT

Helping with your climatechange related blues



NFWS AT SIX



Page 6

Maintaining Morale

- Tips and advice from Manchester's green activists

Page 5

INTERVIEW:

Climate Psychiatrists Rosemary Randall Talks Guilt & Disasters



Pq 4

First Time Reader?

Climate change is coming harder & faster than scientists thought. It's caused by our use of oil, coal & gas. Manchester will not be immune. We have three choice: we can bury our heads in the sand, we can talk a good game or we can cut our energy use & increase our resourcefullness. MCFly is for people, organisations & communities who want to do the third.

Stop Kidding - Adopt (A Committee)

Malnourished and neglected, at risk of a complete loss of their status and usefulness. This poor beast gets minimal sunlight from the MEN and others. YOU can help. With just one hour per month, you can help put this lumbering creature back on its feet and on the path to recovery. With three hours per month of your time, you could transform its entire existence. Don't delay - contact our direct democracy line now to adopt a Manchester Council Scrunity Committee and help reinvograte democracy.

You can help by educating and scrutinising councillors. There are currently six scrunity committees looking at communities, economy, health, neighbourhoods, finance and young people. They are all equally cute and cuddly (not all that is) and are in desperate need of an intervention by clued up citizens who want to help them to engage on the climate change agenda.



Our Mission: Currently, climate change campaigner involvement with Manchester City Council's six scrutiny committees is extremely haphazard. There has been intermittent involvement with the Economy Scrutiny Committee since November 2010 and with the Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee since late 2011. Councillors are not lobbied/educated about climate change in any systematic way. So, our mission is to use the current interest in climate change within the council to change the situation so that by mid 2013 every Scrutiny Committee has been adopted by campaigners who are highlighting the importance of climate change to their agenda, inviting stakeholders to the meetings and opening up the council to more scrutiny. Continued on page 6.

Help Translate A Great Piece of Work

Psychoanalyst Rosemary Randall has given Manchester Climate Monthly a staggeringly brilliant interview. We posed her five questions about how psycho-analytic ideas might be useful in thinking about climate change, and her answers – around guilt, denial, projection and fear - are very very useful indeed. On page 4 of this MCFly you can read a portion of it, and then go to our website for the full interview. We are keen to get this 2000 word piece translated into as many languages as we can, especially German, Italian, Greek, Chinese, French (Arabic and Spanish are already being done). Get in touch if you can help!

mcmonthly@gmail.com



AGONY AUNT

Dear Miss Movements,



For months we've
been trying to get
basic answers to
questions about
the lack of
democracy and
effectiveness in a
so-called "Steering

Group." The facts are clear about it all, but we've failed to turn it into a much of a "scandal." Now we are being told that we are being "really unhelpful" and our standards "too exacting." What should we do?

 Can't Organise Meaningful Resistance Against Democratic Evisceration: Steering Towards A Lethally Ineffective Non-entity

Sorry to hear that COMRADE STALIN. And you will be sorry to hear this – leave it. Just leave it. You have done everything you possibly can. You've played nice. You've played reasonable. You've laid out the facts for all to see. It seems cancelling elections is just fine, but pointing out the cancellation is "really unhelpful." That's just life in your city.

If those "friends" of yours on the "inside" have not lifted a finger - not in public at least, where it counts - then they will have to answer their own consciences in months and years hence. If these people are that determined to crash their car, you can't stop them. Yes, it's a pity, but there's nothing more you can do.

There is an "opportunity cost" here too – time and energy you spend trying to pull them out of the credibility-suck that they seem hell-bent on entering is time and energy you don't have for far more worthwhile projects. You know this. Get on with it.

THE MONTH AHEAD

CarbonCo-op[©]

The Carbon Co-op AGM

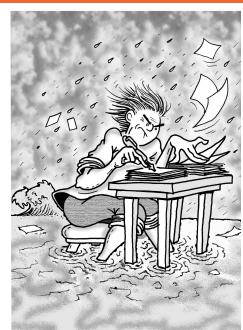
Monday 18th March,
6.15pm-8.15pm

@MadLab, 36-40 Edge Street, Manchester

M4 1HN

The AGM is open to members and nonmembers and will include an update on Carbon Co-op's work to date as well as an opportunity to get involved in future projects. Note that during the relevant segments of the AGM, only full members are eligible to vote.

To attend RSVP via the event page: http://carboncoopagm.eventbrite.com/



MCFly Short Story Competition 2013

Manchester Climate Monthly is launching a short story contest! We are looking for stories of about Manchester in a warmer world. The word limit is 2000 words, and the deadline August 16th. Winners announced at an event in early October. More details available on the manchesterclimatemonthly.net website.

ACT NEW MARKET NO.

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 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



"CHILDREN will be banned from cycling and walking to two primary school sites over fears it would be too dangerous. Following a parent-governor meeting at

North Downs Primary School last Thursday, headteacher Angela Ewing said its Betchworth and Leigh bases would be "driving only" from September."

Read more: www.thisissurreytoday.co.uk/Childrenbanned-walking-cycling-North-Downs/story-18210883-detail/story.html

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.

- * Newsflash! "Siberian wind will strip away your layers of tawdry self-delusion, says Met Office"
- * Latest Alexandra Park Developments & Council U-Turn
- * New (draft) video on Manchester climate "history"
- * Event Report: Ragged University on food, Manchester, climate change and, yes, marijuana

Go to manchesterclimatemonthly.net



Cassie Nolan Campaigner at Save Alexandra Park

wnat is your campaign trying to achieve?

We are trying to stop the unnecessary felling of trees and the destruction of a cherished natural wildlife habitat within Alexandra Park, Manchester, a park regularly used and loved by locals. The park is undergoing a major renovation since receiving funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and MCC. At what should be a time for celebration and togetherness in the community, we have division, anger and upset because of an incredibly poor 'consultation' process. As the public who own the park, we want to be included and actively involved in the plans so that we can ensure all of the park users needs are met.

What sustains you?

The sheer momentum of the campaign and the contagious positivity from all involved has kept me driven and focussed. The feedback from the public has been brilliant - really motivating and encouraging. When times get tough, the sight

or the destruction in the park and the feeling of injustice at what has happened spurs me on to take action. A desire to see change, coupled with a positive mindset is all you need!

What was the last big success your campaign had?

There has been overwhelming support for the protests and the petition from the local community and people of Manchester.

On 09/02/13 we held our 2nd protest at the park,

this time covered by the BBC news, ITV and other media. The sense of togetherness and positivity in the face of adversity was really inspiring. We have previously been referred to as a 'handful of noisy protesters' by MCC. Now with the petition almost at 4,000

signatures and the fantastic turn out at the protests, it is getting harder by the day for them to deny our numbers!

www.savealexandraparkstrees.wordpress.com



Rosemary Randall **Psychotherapist** at the Carbon Conversations project



MCFly editor Marc Hudson caught up with Rosemary Randall who is a psychotherapist and the founder of the Carbon Conversations project. This project consists of psychologically based small groups which help people reduce their climate impact. She writes, runs workshops and lectures widely on the psychology of climate change.

Many climate change campaigns seem based on the assumption that if you give people more information, they will use it to change their own behaviour. What can psychotherapy tell us about why this assumption may be unsafe?

For many years environmentalists thought that all they had to do was tell the public about environmental problems and the public would go 'Oh right. Thanks for telling me – I'll join your campaign and I'll get on and live a more environmentally friendly life." They assumed that most people were like them, ready for the knowledge and eager to act. But of course many people were not like them and the information didn't make much sense to them. They ignored it or "There is little evidence

rejected it. Most people's gut response to new information is to try to fit it into their existing schemas for understanding the world. People like Dan Kahan and

those attitudes might change..." Daniel Kahnemahn write very well about the cognitive aspects of this. If information doesn't fit your way of understanding the world, you'll reject it automatically and then come up with a rationalisation for why it's wrong.

These cognitive analyses are very useful but psychotherapy points us more strongly to the affective domain and the way difficult information can make people anxious and tap into their inner conflicts. This might be the conflict between the information you've just been given and your aspirations. It could be the conflict between wanting to do what's right environmentally and what's right for your family. It might be a conflict between the desire for status now and the desire to protect the future for your children, or the conflict between a world-view that tells you that God is taking care of the world and information that tells you that people are destroying it. This isn't to say that information is never appropriate. It just needs to be offered to someone at the right time, in the right way in a form in which they can digest it and make sense of it in their

own life.

that disaster in itself changes

people's attitudes and if it does change

Another assumption climate campaigners sometimes have is "we need a really big disaster to 'wake people up'." From a psychoanalytic perspective, might this actually not be the way people would respond to some "big disaster"?

We can't afford to wait for 'really big disasters', we need action now however difficult that is to achieve. There is also little evidence that disaster in itself changes people's attitudes and if it does change attitudes we can't say in which direction those attitudes might change. Australian opinion does not seem to be have been shifted by the recent droughts and heat waves for example. How people react to a disaster also depends a lot on political leadership and policy. While a disaster could conceivably mobilise people, badly handled it could equally well lead people to be fatalistic, divide people, alienate them, lead to social breakdown and the scape-goating of minorities. I sometimes wonder whether the desire for a disaster that would wake people up is actually an unconscious expression of the

anger campaigners feel towards the complacent majority.

If you could have the undivided attention of the "campaigning community" (as if such a beast attitudes we can't say in which direction exists!) for a couple of hundred words, what would you write?

The campaigning community carries a

huge burden. It is routine to be ignored. It is commonplace to be mocked. You are frequently attacked. Your task can feel hopeless. It is hard to bear knowledge that the rest of the population refuses to accept. Anxiety and despair are often your unacknowledged bedfellows and it is tempting to defend against these unbearable emotions by engaging in manic. angry activity. Finding the safe space where people can talk about the dark side of their own feelings about climate change could help campaigners face their own grief, reconnect with their creativity and work more effectively. Listening, reflecting and empathising are ordinary, human skills for example. Becoming more psychologically adept could enhance political campaigns both by helping campaigners support each other through experiences of attack, disappointment and frustration and by helping them think more empathically about the responses of the people they hope to engage.

:: Manchesterclimatemonthly.net/interviews/

Movement Building - Staying The Course

In a bid to answer the big questions facing the environmental movement in Manchester, MCFly has been mining the minds and experience of climate activists. In the last issues we looked at bad and good meetings. This month's topic is all about morale - gaining it, sharing it, losing it and starting again. Here's some of the best responses we got

We need to support each other better not just by acknowledgement when people around us achieve successes for our campaigns but by recognising activists' other lives. It's something we learnt in the 1970s and 1980s. As people in minorities - whether it's being lesbian or gay, or a climate change activist - it's really important that we recognise the personal and emotional commitment other people around us are giving to these campaigns. People who give so much need acknowledgement from other people of the contribution they make. "

David Mottram, Green Party

"we need to change the dynamics of the groups and movements we work with so they don't just replicate the tired (and tiresome) stereotypes, judgements and behaviours. I want to be inspired by the movement and draw energy from it, not have to find energy elsewhere to pour into a bottomless pit of poor group process and attitudes. In reality that means accepting, and even celebrating the fact that we need to put a lot more of our time into developing collective process. Not seeing it as a diversion from the important work of saving the planet. Seeing it as a foundation on which to be our utopia."

"On morale maintenance, the best thing I know is for people to do practical things together - either on actions (eg digging up Parliament Square, back in the antediluvian past), as part of wider activities (eg doing up a social centre building), or as more-or-less-explicit team building (eg treeplanting weekends). Unlike most campaigning, you can see what you've achieved. Also, people relate to each other differently when working on something real together, and practical activities give prominence to different people from those who dominate meetings."

Discover
what nourishes you and keep
nourished. Try to do co-operation.
Respect differences ... oh, that is
hard. Love yourself above all ie. give
yourself love. You can't give if you
are undernourished. Me. I need
food. Affection. Humour.
Company. Privacy.
Anne Power

I think the key is understanding that work in this area is more process orientated than output driven. All too often I've seen activists pour everything in to a big project or campaign in the belief that its outcome will be revolutionary, a game changer. In doing so they sometimes push themselves way beyond their mental and physical limits to achieve these goals. Another danger is egotism, the belief that I and only I can make a difference. In part I put this down to a lack of key skills but activists (like many others) can be poor delegators and lacking in trust for others to deliver.

Finally, and this relates to people in all kinds of walks of life, is the basic ability to look after yourself. This involves eating properly, sleeping properly, hanging out with friends, limiting work time, regular exercise and enjoying treats - these are all basic. Unfortunately our sector is prone to martyrdom, the (let's be brutal, protestant) idea that there is virtue in self sacrifice. Actually that's crap. We need to appreciate the good things in life, enjoy ourselves a little, otherwise we will go mad. Jonathan Atkinson



Continued from frontpage. What The Adoption Involves?

Basic Package: Keep track of what the agenda is for the next meeting (have a google alert) and alert other groups to the existence of specific items, especially "environmental ones". Attend the monthly meetings (if you can – or organise at least one person to be there) – report on it at some level, formally and informally. If you did not attend, find out from either an officer or a councillor what happened and inform others of interesting developments.

Luxury Package: You would keep tabs on the forward plan, lobbying to put items on the agenda. Co-ordinate extensive lobbying of councillors about specific issues. Blog posts critiquing specific reports, highlighting the silences and assumptions and also a careful reading of the official minutes, compared to notes taken at the time. Attend the meetings, live tweeting, instant blog posts and create a database of which councillors are particularly passionate about which issues. Commission/write reports that are then submitted to the committee for discussion, working into the policy context etc.

In exchange for your hard work and dedication to this endangered creature, you will receive:

- * Spotters cards so you know who's who
- * Basic explainer, with glossary, of what the committee is all about
- * Calendar of when the different groups are meeting etc
- * White t-shirts with "Saving Democracy. Ask me how."

Email **mcmonthly@gmail.com** with the specific scrutiny committee you are interested in saving and we will be in touch.

Local

Manchester City Council has decided to abolish the post of "Director of Environmental Strategy." Make of this what you will. Meanwhile, not a single one of its six "scrutiny committees", which have meetings scheduled during "Climate Week," have got any discussions of climate change going on then. On the subject of the corporate-friendly embarrassment that is "Climate Weak" "Action for Sustainable Living" and "Manchester Carbon Literacy" have both been short-listed in the Climate Week Awards 2013 in the "Best Community Initiative" category. As they used to say in "Highlander" - "there can be only one." Presumably. The announcement of the winner made in London on March 4th. Meanwhile, the long promised schedule of "fringe events" for the Stakeholder Conference is... non-existent. At least according to the official manchesterclimate.con website. Has anyone heard anything? On the subject of the Stakeholder Conference; elections were promised at the last one, in 2012. Has anyone received any nomination papers? Or are our standards "too exacting" when we mention this?

Regional

The second meeting of the Low Carbon Hub

– the sequel to the useless and unlamented
"Environment Commission" - takes/took
place on Monday 4th March. Such is the
commitment to transparency and democracy
that rather than put the meeting's papers up
five working days in advance the officers
actually did it on ... Thursday February 28 (2
days - and this after prompting from MCFly).
Bravissimo!

The minutes of the first meeting contain such gems of democracy-hatred as "Discussions then took place about whether or not future Board meetings should be held in public. It was felt that a lot of the LCH work could be shared on the website but the challenge was that papers to the Board were not written for public consumption." Sooooo - no actual decision announced but instead an admission that official reports are turgid and unreadable. No commitment to improve their clarity, though. Can't have the oiks realising what is (not) going on, can we? Meanwhile, the "GM Go Early" scheme (to retrofit some houses while waiting for the Market To Provide) is already running into trouble, with them unable to spend the money they've got -"As of end of January 2013, the programme has seen £1.66M of investment in GM housing stock since October 2012. However, the DECC spend to date of £ 585K is significantly behind the original projection of £916k to end January." Various reasons, mainly to do with the weather. Who knew that it's cold and wet in winter?

National

The energy company EDF is threatening activists who occupied one of their power stations with a £5 million quid bill. Nice to see respect for the right to protest, eh?

International

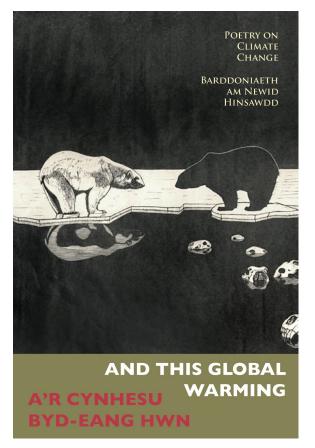
Obama played golf with energy company executives on the same day that tens of thousands of Americans protested about a proposed "Keystone Pipeline" to move tar sands oil from Canada to Texas – that's runaway climate change you can believe in,

So farewell then, to the first and last
"Director of Environmental Strategy" of
Manchester City Council. After arriving in
2009 and shepherding along the nascent
"stakeholder process" that led to the
Manchester Climate Change Action Plan, his
later achievements included cont. page 94

Please don't delay.



CULTURE Vulture



Book Review: And This Global Warming Poetry on Climate Change

This slender but weighty anthology of poems deserves a wide readership. Produced by Roynetree Press, with poems in both English and Welsh, there are forty poets represented here. The poems were ubmitted for a climate change poetry competition run by Awel Aman Tawe, a community energy charity (www.awelamantawe.co.uk), and judged by Carole Ann Duffy and Elin ap Hywel. There are some absolute gems here, and no bad ones (well, I can't judge the Welsh ones!) Of particular note (besides the one we're publishing!) is Aileen La Tourette's "Otzi," an imagining of a dialogue with the Iceman found in the Alps in 1991, and Sue Moules "Acorn Man." The final section, of poems by children and young people, is, of course, heart-breaking. This book would make an excellent gift. It's beautiful to hold, beautiful (yet elegaic) to read. Not so beautiful to think about, of course, but that's the nature of the world we are beginning to live in.

Marc Hudson

Cover image: 'Bears' by Emily Johns

Green Films @ MMU Mindwalk FREE and starts at 6pm, 11th March 2013



Find out more on Facebook.com/TraumaFilm

For Sale

by Richard Foreman

quiet location on spiral arm of the Milky Way well presented, detached planet seven spacious and charming continents set amidst rolling, cerulean oceans heating system in need of some renovation ideal first time investment for extra-terrestrial species

with suitable technology and know-how to stem a rampant excess of carbon dioxide methane, nitrous oxide, ozone... the whole, roiled gamut of greenhouse gases fantastic opportunity to restore depleted, misused, natural resources scattered fragments of once vast rainforests homelands engulfed by rising seas and the vestigial remains of polar ice-caps potential to update and extend vastly depleted wildlife species compromised attempts to establish sustainable industries, renewable energy supplies and responsible agricultural development this planet enjoys an elevated position with outstanding, panoramic views of the universe an elegant world, with versatile accommodation previous owners

now deceased

WHAT'S



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/

Mon 11, 6pm Free showing of the eco-philosophy (but exciting!) film "Mindwalk". John Dalton Building, Rm E1.45.

Tues 12, 4.45pm – 6.45pm Final Mersey Valley "consultation" meeting at St Barnabus Hall, Hardy Lane.

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

Weds 13, 7.30 to 9.30pm Chasing Ice documentary showing @Moston Small Cinema at Miners Community Centre, Teddington Road, Manchester M40. Cost:£3.00 / £1.00 (Moston locals!)

Thurs 14, 5.30 – 8.30 pm North West Sustainable Business Quarterly at Bruntwood, City Tower, Piccadilly Plaza, Manchester.

Thurs 14, 7.30-10.15pm "Brains"! Bright Club, Nexus Cafe, Dale St. Manchester Climate Monthly co-editor Marc Hudson will be doing a humiliating 8 minute stand-up routine on brains, evolution and, or course, climate change.

Fri 15, 7-8.30pm What do we mean by a Green economy? How can we build an economy for a steady state, no growth future? Speakers and debate with Natalie Bennett, Leader of the Green Party, and Neil McInroy, chief executive, Centre for Local Economic Strategies. Friends Meeting House.

Sat 16, "The Big Dig" a volunteering open day run by Big Dig gardens to welcome in their local residents and show them the benefits of volunteering on food-growing gardens. Keep a close eye on http://www.kindling.org.uk/bigdig.

Sat 16, 9am-2pm Big Red Bus Tour takes passengers on a journey around three eco-show homes in Greater Manchester. Meet at Manchester Piccadilly Gardens. The tour is free and includes lunch, to book email them on info@carbon.coop.

Mon 18, 6.15pm-8.15pm The Carbon Co-op AGM at MadLab, 36-40 Edge Street, Manchester M4 1HN

The AGM is open to members and non-members and will include an update on Carbon Co-op's work. To attend RSVP via the event page: http://carboncoopagm.eventbrite.com/

Mon 18, 7pm start Fracking: a technological innovation too far? In The Shakespeare Pub, 16 Fountain Street, Manchester.

Tues 19, 10.30-13.00 Manchester City Council Environmental Strategy Programme Board meeting. Room 1.10

Tues 19, 6pm Feeding the City: The Politics & Promise of Urban Food Urban Forum, International Anthony Burgess Foundation

Sat 23, 9:30am-2:30pm 12th FeedingManchester event held at the Quaker Friends Meeting House, 50 Silverwell St, Bolton, BL1 1PP.

Mon 25, 1pm Transformative innovation policy for sustainable cities. Manchester Institute of Innovation Research Seminar Series Room 10.05 Harold Hankins Building

Fri 29, 6pm Critical Mass bike ride. Starts at Manchester Central Library.

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

twitter: @mcr climate

scribd: www.scribd.com/ManchesterClimate Editors: Arwa Aburawa and Marc Hudson





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FRESH HANDMADE COSMETICS



