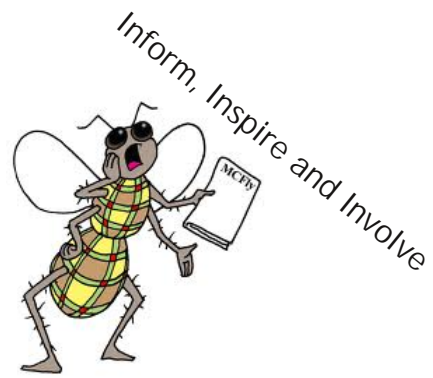


MANCHESTER CLIMATE MONTHLY

manchesterclimatemonthly.net



Inform, Inspire and Involve

Vol 2, No. 4. April 2013

AGONY AUNT

Helping with your climate-change related blues

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NEWS AT SIX



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Movement Building:
How do we get more
people (especially ones
who don't look like us) in
the "climate movement"?



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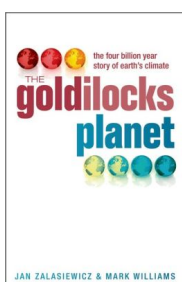
INTERVIEW:

Green Party's New Leader -
Natalie Bennett



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Book Review:



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Fired Up For Climate Action



It's a tale of camaraderie, check-lists and carbon reductions simply too big for MCFly's print edition. At the inaugural "Green Hose" awards for the Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service one of the smallest stations – Marple – walked away with the top prize.

The team there have taken a series of practical actions – from bird-boxes to bee hives, automated light switchers to cycling to work, all the while continuing their public education role in

reducing the really big carbon emissions which come from... buildings on fire. The coveted trophy – produced entirely from recycled fire service equipment will be hard to hold on to – bigger stations are determined to grab it, but the Marple crew have plans of their own.

A long post, based on an extended interview with the crew, will appear on the MCFly website imminently. Type "Marple" in the search box!

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 resourcefulness. MCFly is for people, organisations & communities who want to do the third.

AGONY AUNT

Dear Miss Movements,



I understand how big an issue climate change is, but am no expert. Yesterday was a good example - I was talking to work colleagues (but it could just have easily been friends or family) and they

came out with scepticism/ misunderstandings of the basics. I then did a terrible job of communicating my points. Any advice? *Knowledge Loss Under Tension Zapped Yesterday*

Well KLUTZY, kudos to you for persistence and self-awareness. As the agony aunt cliché goes, the first step to solving a problem is admitting you have one. Many activists just keep doing the same thing over and over and expect a different result - it's total insanity! The first thing to say is ... practice. Get someone to play the denialist, gently and then ever more vehemently. Once you've done it a few times, you'll learn not to get angry, and to greet each new (and ever more familiar!) denialist point with humour and calmness. Remember, it's rarely the denialist who "matters" - you won't convince him (it usually is a him, let's face it), but rather the people watching you discuss.

So find out what they know, build on metaphors that make sense to them. Find out what they care about and point out how climate change endangers those things. If you don't know, don't bullshit. That humility, usually in contrast to the certainties of the denialists, will be a refreshing change. Keep it simple ("the blanket of carbon dioxide is thickening, and that's trapping heat, making t'planet warmer")

Finally, they will be more impressed by your actions than your words. Even if they believe your intellectual arguments, they will not take action unless they see you taking action. But then your dilemma is as follows - if you take too little and they will call you a hypocrite. Take too much and they will dismiss you as a zealot and weirdo (they will probably do that anyway, and you're the one who has to look yourself in the mirror every morning...)

luck and let me know how you get on.

THE MONTH AHEAD

New Volunteers Welcome!

*Birchfields Park
Forest Garden*

We are a voluntary group who meet monthly to undertake forest garden work activities. This includes planting, weeding, mulching, pruning, maintaining borders around the quadrants that the Forest Garden is divided into. Tools provided. Bring packed lunch and weather-appropriate wear! The group meets every 3rd Sunday of each month, 1-3pm. There are also pub socials on the 1st Thursday evening of each month.

Interested? Contact Jane Morris on 07827980684, jane.morris1@btinternet.com
Barry Johnson on 0161 225 2913 or Yasmin Quayyum on 07801817457.

Exchange for Change

Sharing skills and knowledge
For a greener and fairer manchester

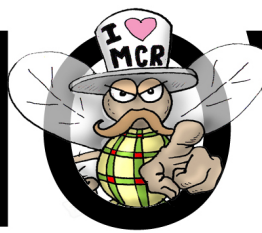


Saturday, April 27,
2013
1:00pm to 5:00pm
Friends Meeting
House

How do we
develop our skills,
share our skills
with others and

enable our groups and our community to grow and achieve the positive changes we want? This event will surprise and inspire. Let it be the beginning of a more confident community activism in and around Manchester as we network the amazing range of skills and knowledge we have collectively. You are invited to attend!

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

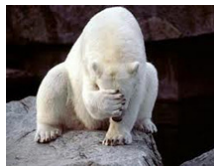
Find out who your local councillors are (even if you are deprived enough not to live in Manchester City Council's area). What have they done to get the council more active? What could they do? Do they even know about climate change as a local government issue?

Get involved with MCFly

Subscribe, forward articles to your friends. Send us news!

Write for us, volunteer...

"Inspiring" Quote of the Month



IMF boss Christine Lagarde was at Davos for the World Economic Forum this year. In a

Q&A session she was asked about climate change implications. She said:

"Unless we take action on climate change, future generations will be roasted, toasted, fried and grilled."

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.

* Musical chairs at the Steering Group #Manchester #Climate

* Manchester Evening News loves climate press release so much that they print it twice. #epicfail

* Awareness into action? Manchester BME groups talk climate change

* Event Report: "Green Economy, Green Jobs" March 15th

* Event Report: The Politics and Promise of Urban Food

Go to manchesterclimatemonthly.net



AT THE COALFACE



Lamees Hafeez
Regional
Coordinator for
M.A.D.E

What is your campaign trying to achieve?

I work with MADE in Europe, an environmentally aware Muslim organisation, as a volunteer regional campaign coordinator and am currently working on the Enough Food IF campaign. The aim of this UK charity coalition campaign is to end world hunger. It may seem a bit daunting but we believe that IF is just the start of a longer campaign.

Why did you get involved?

I first got involved with MADE in Europe because of the great work they do with getting young people involved in global poverty issues. They have an amazing track record and I had already worked with them on several events. I wanted to bring their mostly London centric campaigns up North so we could join in the campaigning fun. For me, particularly as a Muslim, justice is so crucial and I jumped at the chance



to ensure greater exposure and involvement of the Muslim community.

If people got involved in your group/campaign, what sorts of things would they end up doing?

Firstly, I think I should make it clear that we are open to ideas, in fact your motivation and creativity is the most important thing you bring with you. For the IF campaign we ran a huge letter writing event and we also had a great event in London where lots of our supporters dressed up as George Osborne and marched on parliament.

What advice do you wish you could give your younger self?

Do more! It is good to get involved, to be active, to say yes to things you want to do.

www.madeineurope.org.uk



The MCFly INTERVIEW

Natalie Bennett
National leader
of the Green
Party



Natalie Bennett, the new leader of the Green Party, recently visited Manchester. As well as meeting community groups, engaging with the GM Poverty Commission and taking part in a public meeting, she found time for an interview with MCFly editor Marc Hudson.

Why should someone vote Green at Manchester City Council level June 2014?

If you have an only-Labour council, that's really not a politically healthy situation. It would be good to have Greens in there just holding Labour to account. And much more broadly than that, in terms of policies, the Green Party is standing up for the minimum wage – the living wage, standing up for renationalisation of the railways, standing up for a publicly owned and publicly run NHS, standing up for zero-tuition fees...

The Green Party is different from the Labour Party.

We have a very different political

vision and I would say a

much more progressive

and radical political

vision.

What else can people do to make Manchester

a greener place and a more

politically diverse place, other than

going out and voting in June 2014?

Well, I'd very much encourage people to do whatever they can in their immediate local vicinity, and that means speaking up if you need to defend your local library, defend your local swimming baths, speak up if you've got a particularly dangerous intersection that particularly old people and children are finding difficult to cross. We're seeing in Manchester lots of national government money is being pulled out. You have to fight to get resources for the tools.

What do you understand as the distinction between a green growth economy, or a low-carbon growth economy and a steady state economy, and does the Green Party have a particular preference for either?

What we're looking for is increasing the prosperity

and well-being of the British community. In terms of GDP growth we all know that GDP is a nonsense measure. To take some classic examples, if you go out and have a massive smash on the motorway, you've just contributed positively to GDP because you've got to repair all those cars or replace them, you've got to fix the road surface and all the rest of it. So I think it's absolutely futile to have debates around what's happening to GDP. What we need to do is insulate our homes, improve our public transport and provide public services like libraries. And we need to stop lots of things we shouldn't be doing like building zombie roads like the Bexhill-Hastings link road, thinking about expanding airports – lots of things that aren't net-positives for the well-being and prosperity, in the general sense, of Britain.

I've given you a time machine which takes to the year 2030 and someone is looking at us talking about the future.

What do you think that

they would want us to do,

over and above getting a

few more green people

elected in various wings of

the British state?

I think they would really like us to have won some big arguments in terms of energy bills, decarbonisation by 2030 and what we want to do is insert that into the Energy Bill and what that will do is create the environment where there is significant investment in renewable energy in Britain. They'd like us to have won the argument to renationalise the railway. They'd like us to have won the argument to see that development or prosperity doesn't mean a whole slather of new supermarket superstores on the outskirts of town which a whole host of people will drive their cars to on the weekend but instead to start to develop small business economy, small shops, to start to develop market gardens around towns and cities, to bring back small-scale environmentally-friendly manufacturers back to the UK.

:: For the full interview go to

Manchesterclimatemonthly.net/interviews/

How Do We Build A (Diverse) Movement?

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 morale - getting it, keeping it and sharing it. This month's topic is all about diversity. How do we get more people (especially ones who don't look like us; white, middle-class, child-free) involved in the "climate movement"?



"It is
time for parents to
teach young people
early on that in diversity
there is beauty and there
is strength."

— Maya Angelou



"I think people underestimate how hard it is to take that first step alone. In a lot of Muslim communities there usually isn't someone who is involved in green campaigning that people can turn to to ask questions and also to encourage them to get involved.

The lack of that personal connection can also make it hard for people to have the knowledge and confidence to approach groups. I think if I didn't go to university and get involved in activism which helped me link to other networks, I would never have become a campaigner. So I think that personal connections, especially long-term, are really important to encourage more diversity."

Lamees Hafeez, Muslim green campaigner from Burnage

To do list:

- + Reach out to community groups but don't expect a huge response straight away. These things take time - a lot of time.
- + Build a personal and face-to-face relationship.
- + Attend community events where you're not expected. Ask to be added on their mailing lists etc so you can keep on eye on these opportunities.
- + Be aware of the obstacles facing a community whether that be poverty, language barriers, internal conflict or just a lack of time.
- + Make specific demands and focus on the communities strengths when deciding on this.
- + Remember that these issues are really new to some people and so nothing is obvious.
- + Be flexible - about the way you meet, the place, the time, everything.



NEWS AT SIX

Local

On Monday March 4th Steering Group held its ever-so-slightly corporate “Stakeholder” conference in early March. Details of what happened were promised for our blog, (in lieu of being “allowed” to attend). Not forthcoming, just like the elections to the Steering Group. By all accounts (four we've published, and others we've been told) it was very heavily corporate – lots of 40/50 year olds in suits. Two BME people. Very representative of the city then. Climate Weak itself seems to have been a damp squib indeed. With the exception of three days of stalls at the Arndale (kudos to those who staffed it), there were none of the promised “fringe” events.

The search for a new chair for the “Stakeholder” “Steering” “Group” has started. You have until April 12th to get your CV in. Who'll be deciding who is a suitable chair? Probably the City Council. Watch this space. Speaking of the council, the latest round of austerity cuts is set to carvelumps off Manchester City Council's “Green City Team”. Which now sits within the “Policy” team. Bet you feel safer already.

Replacing the irreplaceable Director of Environmental Strategy. MCFly asked (twice) for a statement on who would be responsible for compiling the Annual Carbon Budget for the City Council and presenting it to Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee. No answer has been supplied at time of going to

press. Perhaps nobody is being saddled with the task? Meanwhile, MCFly's invite to a leaving do was lost in the post. But we were alluded to. Parallel paths indeed. And we were mentioned (unfavorably – by someone who has done the city no favours.)

Regional

The second meeting of the Low Carbon Hub – the sequel to the useless and unlamented “Environment Commission” - took place on Monday 4th March. For what it is worth (hint; nowt) the ten GM local authorities have signed up to “Climate Local” - the latest in a long line of local government pledges/wheezes. Bet you feel safer already. “On Friday 22nd Greater Manchester Combined Authority endorsed a “refreshed and refocused strategy” to ensure that the city region's economy grows – and all of its residents benefit. ” But the planet? Not so much.

National

Energy company EDF was forced to back down in its threat to sue activists who occupied one of their power stations with a £5 million quid bill. Still, a chilling message to anyone looking to take non-violent direct action. The Renewable Energy Association had to cancel its 2013 Symposium for lack of interest. The UK's carbon dioxide emissions leapt 4% in 2012. Good to see the “greenest government ever” is doing its job.

In the Budget George Osborne kept



a carbon capture and storage competition going, but deferred the final investment decision on the winning project until... 2015. Nice sense of urgency. Meanwhile, he pledged to introduce a “generous new tax regime” for shale gas, which is “part of the future.” Btw, according to a World Development Movement report, one third of ministers in the UK government, including top cabinet ministers, are linked to the UK finance and energy companies fuelling climate change. Meanwhile, the jet stream has gone for a holiday to Spain. Will it come back? Who knows.

International

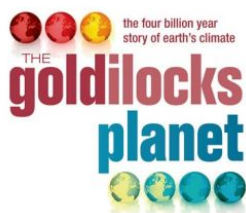
The FT reports that “Suntech Power Holdings, until recently the world's largest solar panel producer, has said that its main subsidiary in China is bankrupt, in a further illustration of the declining fortunes of the global solar industry.” Finally, you may feel safe and warm and thirsty if you are in LA -California has half the snow-pack it normally has at this time of year...

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CULTURE VULTURE

**The Goldilocks Planet:
The 4 Billion Year Story
of Earth's Climate**
by Jan Zalasiewicz and
Mark Williams
May 2012
256 pages



The cosily-named Goldilocks Planet is a review of 4 billion years of the Earth's climate history written by two geologists at the University of Leicester. Zalasiewicz and Williams take us through the following four billion years, through the warm Archaean era, the evolution of simple life, the Earth's first glaciation around 3 billion years ago, the establishment of an oxygen-bearing atmosphere around 2.4bn years ago, the invention of sex about 1bn years ago, the more frequent but less extreme glaciations of the Phanerozoic Era, through a couple of hyperthermals and on into the last Ice Age, the Holocene and now the Anthropocene.

So how useful is this book in helping us respond to the situation in which we find ourselves? The climate, especially over the last half a million years, has been particularly febrile, changing every few thousand years, often abruptly. If such a change happens now, after we have settled most of the globe, especially the low-lying areas that became available once sea level had stabilised around 5,000 years ago, it will be, to understate, very disruptive of human society. Or, in the words of the oceanographer Wallace Broecker: "climate is an angry beast" and we are currently poking it with a stick.

Finally, they make the welcome point that the cutting of emissions is unlikely to "damage" the economy to anything like the

extent that the global banking crisis did, or to cost as much as a couple of medium-sized wars on foreign soil.

It is not a page-turner of the order of, say, Bill Bryson's *A Short History of Nearly Everything*. It is quite dry and at times the chronology isn't quite as clear as it might be. However the book builds a fascinating picture of Earth's climate over the past four billion years and the many factors that have gone to shape it. www.janelawson.co.uk

"Reading for the Planet: World Literature and Environmental Crisis."

Workshop and lecture by Jennifer Wenzel
Monday 29th April, 5.30 - 7pm

Lecture Theatre 5, Geoffrey Manton Building,
Manchester Metropolitan University
RSVP by sending an email with your name to
ihssresearch@mmu.ac.uk.

www.mmu.ac.uk/news/events/2268/

MCFLy Short Story Competition 2013

Manchester Climate Monthly has launched 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. Top prize is £200 and there are second and third prizes too.

See full terms and conditions at

manchesterclimatemonthly.net/contests/short-story-contest/short-story-contest-terms-and-conditions/



WHAT'S N

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/

Tues 9, 6.45pm to 9pm Manchester Friends of the Earth Full Group Meeting, Greenfish Resource Centre, Oldham St.
<http://manchesterfoe.org.uk/>

Sat 13, UK launch of “Promised Land” – film about fracking in the US. Stars Matt Damon.

Sat 13, 10am – 6pm. Northern Vegan Festival will take place in Sachas Hotel in the heart of Manchester City Centre
Admission is just £1 (under 12's free) payable at the door.

Tues 16, 8am to 9.30am Breakfast at Rylands: The Consumer is Dead. This series of café events is part of the University of Manchester's HEIF (Higher Education Innovation Fund) funded Knowledge Exchange Hub for Environmental Sustainability.
John Rylands Library on Deansgate
150 Deansgate, M3 3EH. <http://rylandsconsumer.eventbrite.co.uk/#>

Tues 16, 4pm to 6.30pm Moss Side and Hulme Environmental Workshop. All organisations in Moss Side and Hulme with an interest in the environment are invited to attend a free workshop to find out about other projects and organisations nearby, explore how we can support more environmental projects in the area, and join in cross-sector networking and collaboration. The workshop is being arranged by Manchester City Council with input from local organisations and speakers including the Manchester – A Certain Future Steering Group, Carbon Co-op and Moss Cider. Venue: The Studio at the Z-arts centre, 335 Stretford Road, Hulme. Directions: <http://www.z-arts.org/about-us/getting-here/>. Reserve your place by contacting James on: j.hosen@manchester.gov.uk or 0161 234 1870

Fri 26, 6pm Critical Mass bike ride. Starts at Manchester Central Library, 6pm

Sat 27, 1pm to 5pm “Exchange for Change” at Friends Meeting House. Get together with other concerned people, share skills, knowledge and pitch your volunteer project to the masses.

Mon 29, 5.30 - 7.30pm “Reading for the Planet: World Literature and Environmental Crisis.”: workshop and lecture at lecture theatre 5 in the Geoffrey Manton Building (on Oxford Road, opposite the Aquatics Centre); free of charge and open to the public. Following an informal reception in the Atrium from 5.30, the lectures and seminars will start at 6.00 and conclude at approximately 7.30.

Tues 30, 6pm to 8pm “A Sustainable Future for Manchester” “in conversation” series. Manchester Museum, Oxford Rd. Free. See here for details <http://events.manchester.ac.uk/event/event:q8r-hcrtq73c-c5o4cm/a-sustainable-future-for-manchester>

Manchester Climate Monthly exists to inform, inspire and involve 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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