

# MANCHESTER CLIMATE MONTHLY

manchesterclimatemonthly.net



Inform, Inspire and Involve

Vol 2, No. 6. June 2013

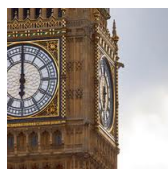
## AGONY AUNT

Helping with your  
climate-change related  
blues



Page 2

## NEWS AT SIX



Page 6

Movement Building:  
What special  
challenges do  
"climate" groups  
face?



Page 5

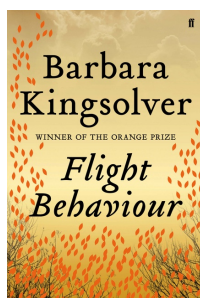
## INTERVIEW:

Ex-Coop CSR  
Executive - Paul  
Monaghan



Page 4

## Book Review:



Page 7

## Manchester must go Dutch!

Fed up with being the sandwich filling between two 10-tonne buses on Oxford Road? Now is your chance to demand better cycling facilities on Oxford Road and in Manchester City Centre. Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) and Manchester City Council (MCC) are consulting on new Cross City and Oxford Road schemes.

The consultation runs till 26th June and there are a number of public events where you can see the detailed plans and ask questions. See [www.loveyourbike.org](http://www.loveyourbike.org) for more details. The Oxford Road proposals will see most of the car traffic removed from Oxford Road between Whitworth Park all the way up to the Cornerhouse (Whitworth Street). The route will be for buses, taxis, emergency vehicles, bicycles and pedestrians. Love Your Bike has been lobbying for "Dutch-style" segregated cycle routes on Oxford Road (and elsewhere) and we have had some success with getting the principle accepted. The recent Greater Manchester Cycling City Ambition bid stated that [on Oxford Road] "Dutch-style full segregation of cycle routes will feature prominently along a 4 mile long flat thoroughfare".

We support the principle of the Oxford Road plans but some of the proposed changes are definitely not cycle-friendly – such as the Hathersage Road junction, Grosvenor Street contra-flow cycle lane as

# LOVE YOUR BIKE .ORG



well as the plans for Upper Brook Street. TfGM also need to be clearer about how they will introduce cycle-friendly routes through the City Centre. Manchester has publicly stated that it aims to become a "world class cycling city" by 2017. To achieve this goal, Love Your Bike believes that TfGM needs to develop high quality cycle networks that are coherent, direct, attractive, safe and comfortable – or in other words - Go Dutch.

Pete Abel is a volunteer with Love Your Bike, a Manchester-based cycling advocacy campaign [www.loveyourbike.org](http://www.loveyourbike.org)

### 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 choices: 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'm in a kind of  
polyamorous  
relationship. There's  
a bunch of us who  
all get on, but two  
of us are  
particularly close.

Now my friend  
(without benefits) says she  
has to leave. It's not me, she says, but her.  
I wish her well, but she's gonna leave a  
big gap in our gang and its core project.  
How do you replace members of your  
small group when they – for reasons good  
or bad – leave? How do you get a newbie  
up to speed quickly?

**About to Lose Justifiably Applauded  
Zesty Excellent Erudite Reliable Ally**

Slow down Al-Jazeera! First off, have  
you told your friend without benefits  
how much she will be missed? Not  
only would it be good for her, it will  
show other people that major  
contributions are celebrated, not taken  
for granted. Second, hows about you  
show some respect for the pre-  
existing skills, knowledge and  
perspectives of the people you are so  
casually labelling “newbie”, eh? In my  
extensive experience, people don't  
respond well to being patronised and  
condescended. What can your  
potential new friends do? What would  
they like to do? Have you bothered to  
find out?

Thirdly, might the departure of such an  
integral part of the project team not be  
a good prompt to take a long hard  
look at the project. Has it fulfilled its  
objectives thus far? If not, why not?  
What might the departure do to it if it  
is already underperforming? You  
know, sometimes the kindest and best  
thing can be to take that trip to  
Switzerland (as long as you don't fly,  
of course).

# THE MONTH AHEAD



## Carbon Co-op

Community Building Retrofit - investing in large scale  
energy efficiency

Midday-5pm, Thursday 27th June 2013

Bridge 5 Mill, 22a Beswick Street, Ancoats

Carbon Co-op is delivering a free seminar on community  
building retrofit. This seminar is for organisations that wish  
to make investments in their building to achieve large  
savings in energy bills and carbon emissions. We will go  
way beyond measures such as changing light bulbs or  
turning computer monitors to standby.

To book: the seminar is open to any community  
organisation but those who own or run community  
buildings in Greater Manchester will be prioritised.  
Complete and return this application form to  
[jonathan@carbon.coop](mailto:jonathan@carbon.coop) to attend.



## An Economy For The 99%

**DATE: Saturday 30th June 2013**

**TIME: 1 - 5pm (& 6 - 8pm social\*)**



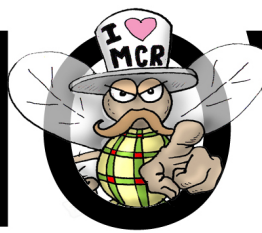
**Tickets £5, or £2 concession**

**soon to be available from eventbrite**

Organised by Climate Survivors & the Alliance for Jobs and Climate  
tel. 07712566144 or email [climatesurvivors@gmail.com](mailto:climatesurvivors@gmail.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?

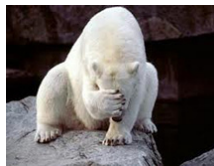
What could they do? Do they even know about climate change as a local government issue?

## Get involved with MCFly

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

Write for us, volunteer...

## "Inspiring" Quote of the Month



"Over the past few days, I have asked the Shell Professor of Earth Sciences at Oxford, the university itself and the umbrella body Universities UK to

explain the ethical difference between taking tobacco money for cancer research and taking fossil fuel money for energy research. None of these great heads, despite my repeated attempts to engage them, were prepared even to attempt an answer." George Monbiot, Guardian, May 14th 2013 after Manchester University accepts £60m from BP

## 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.

- \* Exchange for Change: "skills share" held, lessons learnt

- \* Want to grow food in Didsbury or Withington?

- \* Video: Professor Kevin Anderson talks to Manchester Economy Scrutiny Committee

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



## AT THE COALFACE



Mike Armstrong

Mad Cycle Lanes of Manchester

### What is your campaign trying to achieve?

It's not really a campaign, more a blog that highlights the way councils and other organisations waste public money building cycle "facilities" that actually make cycling more dangerous and inconvenient in the city. I want to see cycle routes where the cars are removed from the streets to make more space for cycling, not the usual British rubbish where bikes are pushed onto the pavements to make more space for cars.

### What sustains you?

Cycling to work every day along the banks of the River Irwell.

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

It's hard to tell when a blog is successful. For me, a

message from someone saying that they have found a recommended route on my blog and started cycling as a result counts as a big success. I suppose in wider terms, I've recently relaunched Greater Manchester Cycling

Campaign's newsletter and that seems to be having an impact, giving a voice to cycling culture in the city. I've also entered GMCC into the Manchester Day Parade which seems to have inspired the idea for Bike Month Manchester...

### If you could wave a magic wand and change one thing in the world, what would it be?

Make religion, cults and other irrational belief systems vanish.

:: [madcyclelanesofmanchester.blogspot.com](http://madcyclelanesofmanchester.blogspot.com)





# The MCFly INTERVIEW



Paul Monaghan  
Ex-Coop CSR  
uptheethics.com,  
Manchester



*Paul Monaghan, who was the Co-op CSR head for 18 years and now heads uptheethics.com, talks past, present and future with MCFly co-editor Marc Hudson.*

**You were at The Co-operative for 18 years. What are you – and what do you think people at The Co-operative should be – proudest of from those times?**

The Co-operative is at its best when it champions issues ahead of the curve. As far back as 1998, The Co-operative Bank said it would not lend to or finance fossil fuel extraction or processing. It funded research and championed public policy intervention way ahead of most campaigning groups – around Tar Sands, Shale Gas, neonic pesticides. It funded Tyndall to do the first ever [overview] work on shale, and for that information to enter the public discourse. Today, it's championing the

global poverty agenda and making sure it doesn't get lost in the rapid climate of little England/localism.

I'd also like to think that I've left The Co-operative in rude health as far as CSR and sustainability go. By hook and

crook I built up one the best resourced corporate social responsibility teams out there – some forty five people and over £10million of annual budget. They also have the essentials of strong foundations and robust architecture: namely, world class sustainability accounting, auditing and reporting and a leading edge revolving three-year Ethical Operating Plan.

**A cynic would say “yes, but what about the investment in Manchester Airport?”**

My answer would be that many people in The Co-op were and are uncomfortable, but don't let the perfect get in the way of the good. There were a lot of heated discussions about those connections.

**So, crystal ball time; it's 2020 and we are looking back on a successful transition towards a low carbon economy. What happened in 2013 and 2014 to make it turn out so well?**

The Energy Bill of 2013 will determine how serious the UK is about climate change for the next two decades. A

well-constructed bill will unlocks finance and creates a revolution in community-owned schemes. Or it could go horribly wrong, with continued growth in gas and shales, which would be a disaster.

**Is it too late for individuals and groups to lobby on the Energy Bill?**

No, it's not. Readers can support Friends of the Earth's 2030 decarbonisation target. They can also support The Co-op's call for more support for community renewables. One of the more interesting developments, towards the end of the year, is the “Energy Bill Revolution Campaign”, set up by “Taskforce UK.” It's trying to create momentum to tackle fuel poverty. It wants revenues from the carbon floor price and the EU Emissions Trading Scheme – in the region of £4bn – to be ring-fenced to obliterate fuel poverty. Fuel poverty affects 1 in

5 people at present, and it will be 1 in three if nothing is

done about it.

**The next waves of CSR and sustainability heroes need to be (will be!) out and out campaigners.**

**They will be brave, articulate and hark back to the great UK Victorian interventionists; the**

**likes of Robert Owen, John Cadbury**

**and William Lever.”**

**Now that you've left The Co-operative, are you slumped in front of Jeremy Kyle eating day-old pizza or do you have more productive outlets for your time and energy?**

As enticing as that sounds, my days will be spent doing much the same thing as I've

been doing – but I'll be working with a wider

range of businesses via my new Up the Ethics

enterprise. The ‘business case’ for CSR will never be strong enough to support an isolated business in its competition against the unscrupulous. The progressive vanguard reaches a point where it can advance no further in its market without rendering itself uncompetitive. That is, unless the bar for what is the allowable lowest common denominator in society is raised. With the base reset, so is the bar of aspiration.

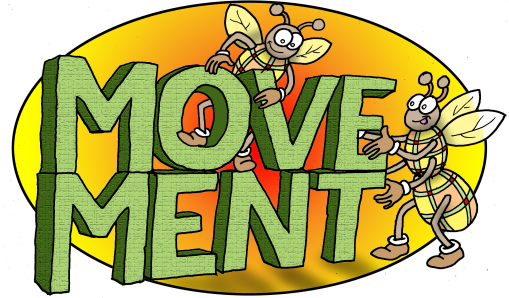
The next waves of CSR and sustainability heroes need to be (will be!) out and out campaigners. They will be brave, articulate and hark back to the great UK Victorian interventionists; the likes of Robert Owen, John Cadbury and William Lever. More significantly, they will act as a tipping point in the battle for a more sustainable economy. They will champion the Granny State – although Granny will need to be chemically enhanced with new-found powers of scientific literacy and evidence-based policy making!

**:: See [manchesterclimatemonthly.net/interviews/](http://manchesterclimatemonthly.net/interviews/)**



# WHAT SPECIAL CHALLENGES DO "CLIMATE" GROUPS FACE?

Building and sustaining social movement organisations is hard work. If it were easy, do you think this species would be in the grotesque mess that is unfolding before our eyes? That said, there are, in our opinion, some reasons why it is *particularly* hard to campaign on climate change. Especially in a city where a four year old "Action Plan" is "refreshed" in the absence of any actual action... (but that's another story)



***"There's a time when the operation of the machine becomes so odious, makes you so sick at heart, that you can't take part! You can't even passively take part! And you've got to put your bodies upon the gears and upon the wheels...upon the levers, upon all the apparatus, and you've got to make it stop! And you've got to indicate to the people who run it, to the people who own it, that unless you're free, the machine will be prevented from working at all!"***

Mario Savio,  
Free Speech Movement activist  
Sproul Hall, December 2, 1964

Except, of course, that time is never quite now. There is always one more flight to take, one more obscenity to turn a blind eye to...

The issue is perceived as "science-y." Science is something most people left behind after two or three poorly-taught/humiliating/difficult years of schooling.

The climate activists who've slogged to understand the science seem to feel some combination of the following

- a) you can't take action until you know your Keeling Curves and your SRESes
  - b) everyone should have to slog through the science the way they did
  - c) they deserve applause and public reward from a captive audience for the work they've done, (so they organise top-down meetings to engineer this)
- All these propositions are patently false, of course, but that doesn't mean folks don't act on 'em...

Other problems – nobody talks of climate change as a soluble issue anymore, in the aftermath of the Copenhagen debacle. So, it's an issue between peaks of the "Issue Attention Cycle." There are "sexier" subjects... (austerity etc). And these topics have more immediate causes, more immediate victims, and more immediate plausible solutions...

Also - working class people oddly, resent being lectured about consumerism by middle-class people (who knew?!)

Middle-class people are afraid that they will have to give up flying, and so expel themselves from their personal (and perhaps professional!) networks... Everybody hates (not to be) a tourist....

**NEXT MONTH:** What do people need (skills, knowledge, other stuff) in order to stay involved in the "climate movement"?



# NEWS AT SIX

## "Activism"

After a mid-month meeting at Madlab, Manchester has a new organisation, Manchester Permaculture Network. It has six committee members; Liz Postlethwaite, Colin Bennett, Jane Morris, Rob Squires, Boyd Lee (from Horrich), and Kath Gavin, (from Hulme Garden Centre).

"Envirolution," the free festival in Platt Fields was blessed with good weather, good attendance and even better organisation.

## Council

The Economy Scrutiny Committee held a well-attended and encouraging meeting given over to the "Green Economy" - with presentations by Kevin Anderson (Tyndall Centre), Mark Burton (Steady State

Manchester) and others. A "task and finish" group is being set up to deal with many items left undone in the year since its last meeting. Meanwhile, the Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee had a tempestuous discussion of recycling and bin-sizes. Meanwhile, 6 councillors have gone through the "carbon literacy" training on offer from Cooler Projects, with more councillors from the nascent "Environmental Working Group" presumably due for the treatment soon.

## Steering Group

In a shock decision, the co-editors of Manchester Climate Monthly were NOT short-listed for the role of chair. At time of going to press, no announcement on who got the (unpaid) gig. And a grand total of one (wildly inaccurate) blog post

on the official website in the last seven months! Now THAT is how to show creative concern for the issues, eh?

## Business

From "Enworks" - A small, Manchester-based chemical research company has been awarded £600,000 for its research into new solar cell technology, from the Technology Strategy Board. Colour Synthesis Solutions was set up in 2007 as a two-man spin-out from the University of Manchester. Today it employs a team of nine chemists, at Hexagon Tower, a science park in Blackley, North Manchester.

## National

Fiona Harvey of the Guardian reports "The number of people employed by the government to work on the UK's response to the effects of climate change has been cut from 38 officials to just six, triggering accusations that David Cameron's promise to be the greenest government has been abandoned." (We defy you to make this stuff up.)

## International

Thurs 16-Fri 17 "Canada quickly established that the Arctic Council - like the fast-melting Arctic - was entering a new era on Wednesday. China and other Asian powers keen on shipping and development were welcomed to the circumpolar table; so was business. But the European Union was cold-shouldered, as were Greenpeace and other non-governmental organizations."

## STOP PRESS:

Arwa Aburawa, co-editor of Manchester Climate Monthly, is leaving Manchester for... London.

After four years or more (you lose count after a while!) of tireless unpaid work on one of the top five monthly climate-related publications in Manchester, she has landed a properly-paid gig with a highly prestigious media outlet.

MCFLy will continue as a print publication until December 2013 (which was the only promise the editors made to themselves, each other and the funders). It may or may not continue as an online publication beyond this date.

I am sure most (if not quite all) readers of MCFLy will join me in wishing Arwa very best wishes for the future, and genuine thanks for the staggering amount of talent and hard graft she has put into MCFLy. She is irreplaceable.

Marc Hudson



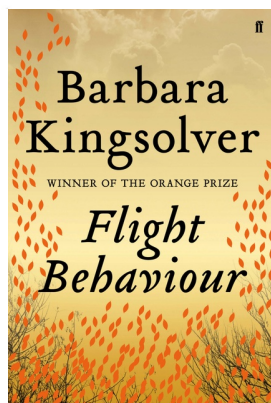


# CULTURE VULTURE

Flight Behaviour  
by Barbara Kingsolver  
448 pages

**\* SPOILER ALERT\***

Dellarobia and her husband are tenants on his domineering parents' farm. He is overshadowed by his dad, a gentle and sincere man but irritatingly dull. She is devoted to her two young children but restless and prone to fantasies about other men. When she discovers the beautiful monarch butterflies overwintering in the woods above the farm, her pastor and congregation first see it as a spiritual blessing. When the handsome, exotic scientist Byron turns up to study the monarchs, Dellarobia rents outbuildings to set up the lab for him and his students and he eventually employs her as part of his research team.



easy narrative flow also disguises its technical skill. All Kingsolver's fiction challenges prejudice and portrays vivid characters who learn from their experience. Never before has she so seamlessly interwoven the personal, the scientific, the social and the political.

Novelists have used intelligent women struggling with confinement to domestic life to highlight social ills since the great novels of the nineteenth century. In fullness of characterisation Dellarobia is in that company.

Dellarobia discovers that the way out of her marriage is not another relationship but the resumption of an education cut short by a teenage pregnancy and the sexism of her teachers. Her intellectual awakening and emotional maturation provide a positive counterpoint to the threat to the monarchs' existence and to her community's way of life. This is a great contemporary novel. Read it.

**George Heron - MCFly reader.**

In a series of scenes in the forest, the lab and mostly over the formica-topped dinner table Byron explains the monarchs' presence the infatuated Dellarobia and we eavesdroppers. The monarchs are in the Appalachian Mountains because logging and climate change are reducing the band of forests in Mexico where they usually spend their winters. It is touch and go whether sufficient numbers can survive in these colder climes – and the majority of monarchs in the world are here. The survival of a species is under threat, from the very same forces that are almost certainly the cause of the landslides and floods that are undermining the local economy.

The novel wears its learning lightly – we are seduced into caring about the minutiae of the monarchs migrations and life cycle. The

## 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/](http://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.**

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

**Fri 7**, 10.30-5pm, Carbon Co-op is delivering a free seminar on negotiating the technical aspects of a community renewables project. From calculating how much energy a solar panel will generate to putting together a tender document, we aim to help you bridge the gap between your vision and the reality of delivery. To book: complete the application form and send to [jonathan@carbon.coop](mailto:jonathan@carbon.coop) to attend. MadLab, 36-40 Edge Street, Manchester M4 1HN

**Tues 11**, 6.45pm to 9pm Manchester Friends of the Earth Full Group Meeting, Greenfish Resource Centre, Oldham St. <http://manchesterfoe.org.uk/>

**Wed 12**, 3.30pm 'From Here to 2050: Low-Carbon Energy System Trajectories for the UK' by Professor Paul Ekins, Director of the UCL Institute for Sustainable Resources at University College London on (room C1, George Begg Building, Sackville Street, Manchester).

**Thurs 13**, 12-2pm In Place of Growth: What new thinking and language do we need to revitalize local economies? Room AG9, Ellen Wilkinson Building University of Manchester, Oxford Road. See [steadystatemanchester.net](http://steadystatemanchester.net) for more info

**Thurs 13**, 6-8.30pm North West Sustainable Business Quarterly "The sustainability specialist – the conscience of the business?" Location: Bruntwood's City Tower

**Sat 15**, 12-4pm Manchester's first Feeding the 5000 at Picadilly Gardens, Manchester. Come along and be one of 5,000 people to enjoy a delicious free hot vegetarian meal made entirely out of food would otherwise go to waste. The event is organised and supported by: Feeding the 5000, EMERGE/Fareshare North West, Manchester Friends of the Earth, Feeding Manchester, Cracking Good Food, Abundance Manchester, Foodlink North West, and many others. For more details or to volunteer please email [manchester@feeding5k.org](mailto:manchester@feeding5k.org)

**Tues 18**, 6-9pm Suss Out Sustainable. Jules Bagnoli, renowned low carbon Michelin-starred chef, will run a truly sustainable workshop at the Chorlton Cookery School for people wanting to learn more about sustainable food and those aiming to influence chefs & catering policy – Chorlton High. 12 places only.

**Thurs 27**, 10.30-5pm Community Building Retrofit – investing in large scale energy efficiency at Bridge 5 Mill, 22a Beswick Street, Ancoats, Manchester. Carbon Co-op is delivering a free seminar on community building retrofit. Email [jonathan@carbon.coop](mailto:jonathan@carbon.coop) to attend.

**Thurs 27**, 6pm "Fuelling Manchester," Manchester City Centre.

**Sun 30**, 12:30pm to 6pm 'Shift' conference – An Economy for the 99% at St Clement's Church High Lane Chorlton, Manchester. Conference organised by Climate Survivors along with the Alliance for Jobs and Climate.

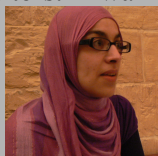
Manchester Climate Monthly exists to inform, inspire and involve people working - or wanting to work - towards a more resilient and fair Greater Manchester. Its editors are not members of any political party or employed by any local authority. MCM receives no political funding. But we have a Lush wedge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

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