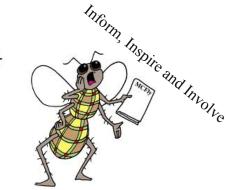
CLIMATE CHESTER THAT MONTHLY

manchesterclimatemonthly.net



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AGONY AUNT

Explains to "SLAVERY" what freedom is, and isn't



Page 2

NEWS AT SIX



Page 6

Movement Building:

Some of the lessons to be learnt from the existence of Manchester Climate Monthly



Page 5

INTERVIEW with Dr Adidsa Azapagic of Manchester University



Page 4

So long and thanks for all the fish! This is the last print edition of Manchester Climate Monthly! I'd like to say it's been unalloyed fun. But that would be a lie...

14 and a half million reasons why...

Manchester City Council says it is going to spend the 14.5 million quid it just got from Manchester Airport on "clean and green spaces." You'd think that environmentalists would be jumping for joy. Maybe some are, but they should consider the following -

There's a principle at stake

This is not a decision that should be taken by 8 people, even if they have been elected. It is not a decision that should be taken by 96 people, even if they are elected. How to spend this "one-off" pot of £14.5 million pounds that Manchester City Council has thanks to its part-ownership of Manchester Airports Group should be taken by widest possible set of people. That means a public consultation. Despite what you will be told, a consultation needn't cost a lot of money or time.

It's not 'green'!

When MCFly interviewed the Executive
Member for the Environment Nigel Murphy
the conversation went, in part like this MH: And definition of green? Because
there's nothing in the report... that
mentions carbon dioxide emissions or
biodiversity. There's certainly stuff in there
about "clean". But what does the Council
mean by "green" in that context?
NM: "I don't think we want to be too
prescriptive... the green could cover
anything; we don't want to be prescriptive

"There is a growing gap between the political elite and the people who elect them. Politicians should fight every day not for their party or themselves but to sustain a belief in democracy."

Michael Ignatieff BBC Daily Politics 3/6/13

The Council is planning to spend its £14.5million pound windfall without consulting the people of Manchester about what their priorities are.

SIGN THE PETITION! It's your money, it should be your choice. http://askthepeopleofmanchester.wordpress.com

@askpeopleofmcr #askmcr

on what it's actually going to be used for."

Fourteen and a half million quid would need...
no, let me say that again – FOURTEEN AND A
HALF MILLION QUID ... will need clever
decisions, transparency and willingness to learn
from mistakes. Given that the Council still hasn't
sent its "Annual Carbon Reduction Plan 2013-4"
to Executive for approval, they don't have a track
record that inspires confidence.

Never heard of that plan? No, quite.! Just a tip – the Council tried to spin a 1.8% increase in its own emissions as a 7% reduction, because traffic lights were no longer its responsibility

Let's think ahead...

Environmentalists, unless they have been asleep for thirty years, know that their reputation is not a cont page 2

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

AGONY AUNT

Dear Miss Movements.

being involved in a new and ambitious group is like falling in love. It's all such a whirl, almost like falling in love, isn't it?

Everything seems possible, the earth moves underneath you. But, as the feminist slogan about romance used to go "it begins when you sink into his arms, it ends with your arms in his sink." Lately the workload in the relationship - for ALL of us - seems to be getting out of hand. We seem to be emotionally blackmailing each other - and ourselves - to sustain a pace that is just heart-breaking. What to do?

Seems Lately Activity Vastly Exceeds Realistic Yardsticks

Hello SLAVERY,

Relationships change, and need constant renegotiation. That's what I keep telling Mr Movements, between his bouts of dish-washing, vacuuming and meal-preparation. When he complains of it all being too much, I allow him to switch to meal-preparation, dish-washing and vacuuming. A change is as good as a rest.

But I digress; It's simple; you need to tell them how you feel. You're almost certainly not the only one. Watch the response you get very closely; if the attitude of your "comrades" is "suck it up and Get the Job Done", then do the jobs that are still outstanding and then... run, don't walk away. Once you've reached a safe distance, then drop them a line and explain in simple language why guilt- tripping has alienated your affections.

The other - more likely - alternative, is that other people are feeling the pinch too, and you can have an adult discussion about what is and isn't doable. Freedom, SLAVERY, comes with that level of responsibility. Let me know how you get on!

THE MONTH AHEAD

Thursday 24th and Thursday 31st October - The Land Army will be heading out to Moss Brook Growers to help with planting garlic, weeding and harvesting squash. Lunch, hot drinks, gloves and tools provided. Transport from Hulme will also be provided, meeting at the Kindling Trust office (Unit 19, 41 Old Birley Street, Hulme) at 9.00am and arriving back for 5.00pm. Please email corrina@kindling.org.uk to book your place

14.5 million reasons why...

(cont from page 1)

good one; they are perceived and portrayed as hippies and dropouts or else out-of-touch, middle-class do-gooders and snobs. So try imagine the resentment if this money goes primarily to things they like, and NOT to helping people in dire financial and social need!

And imagine the backlash when it emerges the even a small amount of this £14.5 million is wasted. Some of it WILL be, especially if the whole process lacks criteria (see again the Nigel Murphy interview) and is rushed through. The Council has a monumentally appalling record on the efficacy and openness of its "green" spending. Does anybody remember the million pound "Carbon Reduction Fund" of 2008/9? No, precisely.

Want to be able to get any money for a green project in three years time? I think you should be signing the petition (see below.)

Political/pragmatic/precedence/protection

In the coming decades, as the climate becomes more and more unpredictable, we will experience "1-in-a-100" year floods and heatwaves every four or 5 years. There will be (unpleasant) surprises. We are going to need to have bureaucracies and political systems that are far more nimble and responsive than what we have now. It's known as "adaptive governance." It doesn't come instantly, it doesn't come by accident. It comes by creating spaces for genuine discussion and decision. If this "Clean and 'Green' Spaces Initiative goes through unmodified – if the backbench Labour councillors choose to let that happen – then the work of making Manchester fit for the future becomes that much more difficult. And it's already looking quite tough enough, thank you.

What you can do

Sign the petition calling for a full public consultation on how to spend the money. It can be found on the City Council's website. Get your friends and family to sign the petition

Get in touch with the "Ask the People of Manchester" campaign - askthepeopleofmanchester@gmail.com askthepeopleofmanchester.wordpress.com

(Disclaimer - Marc Hudson is co-founder of the campaign).

Reduce your personal footprint

All the standard personal stuff - drive less, cycle more, fly less (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 or two. You may need to "shop around" until you find one you like. Make sure it's one where they give a damn about your development, your morale, and the long-run. Climate change activism is a marathon, not a sprint, after all.

enough not to live in Manchester City Council's area). What have changes will be felt the most and it is irresponsible and they done to get their council more active? What could they do? Do they even know about climate as a local government issue? Get involved with MCFly

Subscribe, forward articles to your friends. Send in news! Write for it, volunteer...

"Inspiring" Quote of the Month



At the Conservative Party conference the Environment Secretary of the "Greenest Government Ever" (TM) said, of the IPCC's Ffifth Assessment Report that climate change wasn't all bad, and he (Owen Patterson) thought there was a lot

of alarmism. In response (as quoted from the Independent) we print this - "It's a deliberately partial reading of the report. Either that or he has not read the report properly or does not understand the significance of the emissions scenarios. These tell us that business as usual will give us a 50:50 chance of a 4C temperature rise..... His view that we can muddle through climate change is a colonial, arrogant, rich person's view. Find out who your local councillors are (even if you are deprived Many people will die in the developing world where the immoral to suggest that we as a species can adapt to climate change."

Who said this? Step forward Professor Kevin Anderson.

Dwight Towers, Blogger

When not captaining the US Navy nuclear submarine USS Swordfish, Dwight Towers has a blog. We caught up with him via sonar.

What is your campaign trying to achieve?

Alienating everyone. No, but seriously - Besides having a laugh (more and more important in this day and age, I am trying to alert people to the sterile and deadly way that meetings and campaigns are currently conducted, and give examples of simple and cheap remedies for these problems. The problems for campaigning groups aren't (just) money, they are cultural inertia and

What sustains you?

fear

Anger, fear and ,a <beep> of a lot of IV caffeine If people got involved in your group/campaign, what sorts of things would they end up doing?

Er, retweeting and facebooking the many pearls of wisdom that drop from my keyboard

If you could wave a magic wand and change one

thing in the world, what would it be?

This species' unwillingness/inability to forgive "nature" for eating it during its hundreds of thousands/millions of years as a relatively defenseless ape. The mental scars of those times explain both our hatred of nature/desire to dominate it and our many many hang-ups around

fear/vulnerability.

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

- 1) Never play Texas Hold'em with a man called Guido.
- 2) Don't follow leaders, watch the parking meters
- 3) And most of all, understand that when you meet with people to plan actions, you are meeting with them, their (Jungian) shadows, their fears and hopes and their unmet ego needs. And, of course, they are meeting with yours. The room and the agenda both get crowded pretty quick...



The MCFly Interview: Dr Adidsa Azapagic

MCFly spoke with Dr Azapagic of the University of Manchester after her election to the Royal Academy of Engineering.



How will becoming elected to the Royal Academy of Engineering change what you do, or the impact of what you do?

The Royal Academy of Engineering is the UK's national academy of engineering with the main aim of advancing and promoting excellence in engineering. By becoming a Fellow, I will have greater opportunities to contribute to this goal, and in particular to promoting sustainability in engineering, which is my area of research but also my passion. I also hope to have closer interactions with policy makers and help shape national policy related to the environment and sustainability. Above all, I hope to be able to inspire young people and particularly women to become engineers.

Re: the Sustainable Industrial the UK, we Systems group - what recent throw away 30% of successes has it had? What perfectly good food projects are "in the pipeline"? which is responsible for Sustainable Industrial Systems is high greenhouse gas my research group at the University emissions and of Manchester. The main aim of our environmental research is to help identify sustainable solutions for industry taking into account economic, environmental and social aspects. We work closely with companies in different sectors including chemicals, construction, energy, food & drink and water.

We have recently been successful in attracting £7m from UK Research Councils to set up a Centre in Sustainable Energy Use in Food Chains. The Centre, a collaborative venture with universities of Brunel (lead), Manchester and Birmingham, will work on developing innovative and sustainable solutions for reducing use of energy and resources in food production and consumption. This will contribute towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions and meeting UK climate change targets. For more detail on our research visit www.sustainble-systems.org.uk.

If you could "wave a magic wand" what would you change in the way that consumers behave?

If I had a "magic wand", one thing that I would change regarding consumer behaviour is how we shop for food as that could reduce food waste significantly.

How come and why is food waste important? Because most people go shopping every two weeks or even once a month, we buy much more food than we can eat before it goes off, then we throw it away and buy more food, and on it goes. In the UK, we throw away 30% of perfectly good food which is responsible for high greenhouse gas emissions and environmental pollution. At the same time, in other parts of "In the world, people are starving. Surely

> this is unsustainable. So, if we were to buy food more frequently and just enough for what we can actually eat, then we would minimise food waste which in turn would reduce significantly the environmental impacts from food.

If you could "wave a magic wand" what would you change in the way that research like yours is conducted and feeds through into the world of industry?

pollution...

I would first want the Government to recognise the importance of research for the national economy and future development and growth currently, this is not the case and lag in research investment behind many European countries and the US. I would also like to see industry fund research at a greater level rather than expecting Government to provide most of the funding. Finally, I would like to see a greater uptake by industry of sustainable solutions identified and developed through research. So, it would have it be a really big "magic wand"!

MEA CULPA, MEA MAXIMA CULPA

Honest accounting or narcissistic fishing for compliments? You decide...

Marc Hudson and Arwa Aburawa set out to inform, inspire and connect (later "involve"). While we had some successes, here and there, Manchester Climate Monthly has not achieved the break-throughs that we hoped it would. It would be easy to blame the post-Copenhagen-ness of the climate "movement," austerity, human apathy/fear/cynicism, social movement inertia and the this and the that. It would be easy, and convenient, but not really very helpful. All of those things are just part of the background noise that everyone has to operate in, which we knew all about when we set up the project in October 2011.

There's a bunch of reasons we "failed". Some of them include;

MCFly was never sufficiently hyperlocal, connected to how people live their lives (we kinda felt that was the job of the various campaigning groups, but they didn't really – in our opinion – do that very well at all.)

Too many words, not enough pictures, analogies etc. MCFly was written by people with extensive university educations, and (in a bad way) it shows.

Not rigorous in pursuing "negative" stories (e.g. the disastrous Council "Annual" "Carbon" "Reduction" "plans", the disastrous Low Carbon Hub etc

Not diligent enough in boosting the good stuff that is happening

Poor translation of stuff that appeared in the paper edition onto the web

Lousy (no, really lousy) paper distribution

Not making sure that the people who needed to read some of our stories had done so.

Didn't "play the game" of making the right noises about the efforts of those mired in the smugosphere.

Didn't keep a straight-face while being lied to and fobbed off by the Powers-That-Bee Didn't cultivate enough sources in the mainstream media (though that is changing, ironically after MCFly as a print-thing dies).

Didn't get out of the green ghetto regularly or systematically enough.

So, did we do anything right?

Well, with the exception of the this (last) print issue, we hit all of our deadlines, which is not bad for an organisation with no budget for salaries (the Lush money goes on events and printing).

We did offer some people the opportunity to become published writers

The "At the Coalface" column highlighted the efforts and activities of local campaigners We tried to talk about the dilemmas of organising, but were largely ignored by the smugosphere The interviews with academics and policy-makers were probably a Good Thing.

What we would do differently "next time?"

Work more collaboratively with graphic designers

Make more videos. And not just crappy ones. Make 'em fun, slick etc.

Be more ambitious in getting volunteers and skilling them up

Publish less on the website, and spend longer "pushing the product"

Be systematic in trying to get conversations going about important issues.

Keep doing the stuff that worked (PMT, the book group/monthly meetings etc etc)

There IS a "next time". It may or may not have a print publication attached to it. So PLEASE, if you have any opinions on anything above, please email us - mcmonthly@gmail.com



Steering Group

So, there was a brief (MCFly-emailinspired?) flurry of activity on the manchesterclimate.con website. A few items went up on the "events" page, a mere year after the last update (bravo Groundwork, whose contract was not renewed). Sadly, the new secretariat folks, Action (sic) for Sustainable Living, seem to be reverting to the mean - the calendar page still boasts of upcoming events a month out of date. And the elections that are one of the duties on the tender document that AfSL one. You'll see elections in Pyongyang before you see them here in Manchester. Does the memory hole ever get full? There was recently a meeting of the esteemed Steering Group, and we are reliably informed that the minutes, including presentations, will, in the fullness of time (see above) go up on the relevant website.

Prediction: If MACF does indeed go under (as have most "climate" groups of its vintage), then the spin will be that while it did EXCELLENT and GROUND-BREAKING work that everyone should be proud of, the agenda is now best dealt with by the MAGNIFICENT Greater Manchester Low Carbon Hub (Austerity, duplication, efficient use of limited resources yap yap yap). And goal two of the Climate Change Action Plan, of a "low carbon culture" will be quietly elided...

The Council's Environmental Sustainability Subgroup – a

mash-up of councillors from the Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee and the Economy Scrutiny Committee – met at MERCi in Ancoats last week, and were almost outnumbered by nonmembers (all of Steadystate Manchester and also some chap who introduced himself as Richard Leese. Presumably he was there to make sure no-one wandered too far from the party line on "what kind of growth do we want", the second item on the agenda. (The first was Leadership, which regular MCFly readers will recall got blogged about the Monday before the meeting. Sadly, not many ESS members seem to be regular readers. Of note – a council officer stated that the Council had tried to get businesses to sign up to the Climate Change Action Plan but since it "wasn't in their language" they did not press the issue. Now THAT'S leadership, isn't it!! Dwight Towers (see "At the Coalface" interview on page 3), who swallowed an anthropology textbook at submariner school, was there, and coined the phrase "ego-potlatch" after sitting through various chest-beating and defensiveness displays. The next meeting of this group is on Wednesday 6th November, venue to be confirmed. Book your annual leave now!

The City Council Annual Carbon Reduction Plan farce

continues. (This is the one that, in July, headlined a 7% reduction in the City Council's carbon emissions last year, where the small print conceded a rise, with the 'reduction' being due to Transport for Greater Manchester taking responsibility for traffic lights). The plan, which has a 2009-10 baseline instead of a 2005 baseline, as

per the Manchester Climate Change Action Plan, STILL hasn't gone to executive. Previous plans went straight there. This one will have waited at least 90 days before it can be looked at by the Consultative Panel that includes (just) a couple of Liberal Democrats and is attended by the media. It's VERY hard to imagine why those in charge of the plan didn't want that happening before late October... MCFly has asked - twice - why the plan has not gone to Executive. In the finest traditions of openness and transparency, no reply whatsoever has been forthcoming.

At the last meeting of the Low Carbon Hub (members of the public NOT welcome) a report was tabled. Well, many were – that's what they DO at those meetings. But this report was a bit special – it included the observations that the LCH has "a relatively complex governance structure that could hinder the speed at which projects are carried forward, low direct involvement of the citizens" and "weak direct involvement of SMEs."

Maybe they could be invited to expand on this for an article for "ontheplatform"? Just sayin' Meanwhile, the Low Carbon Hub is now without a chief exec officer, after Charlie Parker got head-hunted by Westminster Council to be their Bernstein. We have, of course, asked the Low Carbon Hub secretariat what the interim plans are. And we have, of course, been ignored.

CULTURE

Tony White

Gregory





Tony White in conversation with Gregory Norminton



Tuesday 7.30pm

The Manchester Museum

The University of Manchester Oxford Road Manchester M13 9PL

Tickets £6/£4 concessions Book on: 0843 208 0500

Buy tickets online



Acclaimed author Tony White was commissioned by the Science Museum to write a new work of fiction exploring the potential political, social and cultural impacts of climate change. The resulting novel, Shackleton's Man Goes South, was inspired by a little known science fiction story written in 1911 by polar explorer and meteorologist George Clarke Simpson, and tells the story of



"Ways of seeing climate change: Bringing artists and scientists together to explore climate change."

Produced by Invisible Dust in association with Manchester University and supported by Siemens. Part of Manchester Science Festival 2013.

10-5.30pm Wednesday 30th October, St James Building, 61-95 Oxford Street, Manchester, M1 6FQ

Speakers include filmmaker and writer David Malone, creator of the BBC's Metamorphosis, the science of change and author of the Financial blog GolemXIV, in addition to John Vidal, Environment Editor of the Guardian, climate scientist Professor Kevin Anderson from the Tyndall Centre and Manchester University, and a live performance of Rising by artist Adam Chodzko. For further information and enquiries please contact jane@invisibledust.com.

Book Review: The Coming of Age of the Green Community My neighbourhood, my planet by Professor Erik Bichard 127 pages (plus bibilography, index Routledge, 2014

"When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things." 1 Corinthians 13;11

So, has the Green Community (what's that?) "come of age"? Perhaps you shouldn't judge a book by its title. Erik Bichard, Professor of Regeneration and Sustainable Development at University of Salford, has written a good short book full of useful case studies and information. The opening chapter asks (but only partially answers) the question "Is green activism turning a new page?" Most of the rest of the book is based around interviews and encounters Bichard has had in Freiberg (the "green" town in Germany, anti-fracking campaigners in Pennsylvania, food coops and "environmental redemption" in Boston. Bichard finishes the book with a short chapter "Has the green community come of age" which is not as strong as the case studies. There are unanswered questions on the sustainability, nature, goals and resources of social movements, questions that we hope to take up with him in an interview (watch the website...)

Who will be interested in this book? Particularly of interest to folks in the North West, because it has extensive information not just on anti-fracking in Lancashire, but also the history of Action for Sustainable Living (see page 6!), Ashton Hayes, "Sustainable Blacon" and Incredible Edible Todmorden.

This is a clearly written book, with a minimum of academic jargon, with only a few of the editing errors that typically mar Routledge books these days. You can (and should) borrow the MCFly copy.

7



Inclusion in this calendar is NOT a guarantee of quality.

For full listing go to our online calendar at manchesterclimatemonthly.net/the-calendar/

Thurs 10th, 4.30pm Seminar: "The search for sub-national territorial governance solutions: 25 years of city-regionalism in Manchester." Open to public – held at University of Manchester Humanities Bridgeford Street, Room 1.69/1.70

Thurs 10th, 7- 9pm Green Party open meeting "Being a Councillor - whats it means, what's involved" Friends Meeing House, 6 Mount St, Central Manchester

Saturday 12th 12 noon – 5pm "From Balcombe to Lancashire: Anti-Fracking Skillshare"

The Yellow Room, University of Manchester Students Union, Oxford Road, M13 9PR

This summer, thousands of people mobilised against the fracking industry in Balcombe, Sussex. The community resistance drew people from all over the country who camped out, met new people, attended demonstrations, blockaded trucks and occupied industry headquarters. This skillshare and meeting is for all those who were inspired by events in Balcombe and the Reclaim the Power camp – to reflect and organise for the future, with a particular focus on supporting community resistance to the industry's fracking plans for the North of England. The event will be wheelchair accessible. For more info email manchester@climatecamp.org.uk

Tues 15th, 4.30pm RSA Keep Calm Conference 2013, Manchester Museum http://www.thersa.org

Tues 15th, 7.30pm "Shackleton's Man Goes South" event on with author Tony White in conversation with Gregory Norminton at the Manchester Museum. Part of Manchester Literature Festival £6/£4

Weds 16th, 7-8.30pm Friends of the Earth Climate sub-group meeting Green Fish Resource Centre, 46-50 Oldham St Fri 25th, 6pm Critical Mass bike ride, starting at St Peters Square, in front of Central Library

Sun 27th, 6.30pm Showing of "Chasing Ice" as part of the Manchester Science Festival. At Museum of Science and Industry. With brief introduction by Marc Hudson, editor of Manchester Climate Monthly

Weds 30th, 6 to 8. What art can bring to our understanding of of Climate Change? An evening of performances from artists who are working with Manchester University Tyndall Centre scientists to explore new ideas around climate change. From flooding to biodiversity and consumerism join Ellie Harrison, Adam Chodzko and the Owl Project with Curator and Director of Invisible Dust and Honorary Researcher Manchester Museum, Alice Sharp, in the atmospheric Living Worlds gallery.

Thurs 31st, 4.00pm Seminar: Prof Frank Geels – "The arduous transition to low-carbon energy: A multi-level analysis of renewable electricity niches and resilient regimes." Open to public – held at University of Manchester Humanities Bridgeford Street, Room 1.69/1.70

See also page 7 for more cultural stuff and page 2 for more get-dirt-under-your-fingernails stuff...

Manchester Climate Monthly exists to inform, inspire and involve people working - or wanting to work - towards a more resilient and fair Greater Manchester. Its editor is not a member of any political party or employed by any local authority. MCFly receives no political funding, but does grub about for juicy gossip. But it has a Lush wodge of moolah. For its mission(s) and transparency mechanisms, please visit the "about" page on our website.

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