

NETWORKING NEWSLETTER

ISSUE #36
OCT/NOV '01

This PDF version of the newsletter has no images and extraneous information removed (to minimize the file size).

The full (16 page) newsletter has been sent to members – ring 0161 226 9321 for a free copy.

A web version will appear shortly at

<http://www.networkingnewsletter.org.uk>

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Manchester Against War

The events in New York on September 11 are likely to be etched in our memories for an extremely long time. Deliberately taking so many innocent lives in such a cold blooded calculated attack has been condemned worldwide.

In the aftermath of the attack, there have been marks of respect, minutes of silence and books of condolences all around the city. President George W. Bush and Prime Minister Tony Blair have declared a "war on terrorism" and on those who support terrorists. Terrorism is appalling and steps should be taken to wipe it out. But how far should we go?

On the last two Saturdays of September, peace rallies have been held (see photo). And on Thursday 27 September, over 350 people crammed into the Friends Meeting House in Manchester to join together in approving a "Greater Manchester Declaration of Peace". The meeting also formally launched a "Coalition to Stop the War" to promote the alternative view of peace, justice and freedom across the world.

"A better world is possible", concluded Rae Street, of Greater Manchester & District Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) who organised the meeting together with the Socialist Alliance, Green Party, Globalise Resistance, and other local campaigns, trade unions and individuals.

The anti-war coalition has now organised a series of events and activities to oppose war-mongering including transport to the national CND demonstration in London on Saturday 13 October and local meetings in Stockport, North Manchester, Salford (8th) and South Manchester (Withington Community Centre on 10th) in early October. More dates are likely to follow.

If there is any bombing, a vigil will take place at the top of Market Street at 5:30pm the same day (or the next day if it's night time bombing).

*Greater Manchester & District CND (0161 273 8283)
GM Socialist Alliance (0161 256 1997)*

Networking Newsletter Project, 6 Mount Street, Manchester M2 5NS
Tel: 0161 226 9321 Fax: 0161 834 5797 info@networkingnewsletter.org.uk
<http://www.networkingnewsletter.org.uk>

The Manchester Guide to Green, Peace, Human, Animal and Debt Campaigning

Speak Out for Asylum Seekers

The backlash to the American atrocity has begun with a vengeance in the UK, with attacks on mosques, physical assaults and verbal abuse directed against Muslims, especially Afghanis and Pakistanis. Feelings whipped up against refugees and asylum seekers over the last few years have already led to murder, arson and assaults. The massacre in America threatens to fuel more violence.

On the day before the attack on New York the Sun

trumpeted "One million illegals hiding in Britain!" Over the next few days most of the papers ran stories about Muslim fundamentalists and alleged extremist organisations in the UK with connections to Bin Laden. Attacks on innocent people soon followed.

These are dangerous times for everyone, and the threat of war and military strikes against Afghanistan will generate an even more acute refugee crisis around the world.

The **Manchester Committee to Defend Asylum Seekers** will be holding a "Speak Out for Asylum Seekers", to tie in with Human Rights Day, on Saturday 8 December from 1pm at Cross Street Chapel. The event will include speakers, politics and music. There are also planning meetings at the Friends Meeting House, 6 Mount Street on the first Monday of each month at 7.30pm.

*Tony Openshaw, National Coalition of Anti-Deportation Campaigns
(0161 740 8206,
<http://www.ncadc.org.uk>)*

Shell Fuels Animal Research

Published research unearthed by the **Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty** campaign has revealed that Shell have commissioned Huntingdon Life Sciences Ltd to vivisect pregnant rats to test ingredients of PVC. In protest, members of **Manchester Animal Protection** joined others at a protest at Shell's refinery at Stanlow, Cheshire in September. Starting from 5:30am lines of people blocked all roads in and out of the site, locked to each other and to concrete-filled oil drums to stop the police from moving them. By the late afternoon the police were starting to drag

people away and there were eventually twenty seven arrests.

Press attention for this event was tiny, considering that the animal liberation movement actually stopped all oil tankers coming in or out, whereas the fuel protest movement last year merely parked outside and offered the tanker drivers vague threats.

Details of future Shell/HLS demos and phone blockades are given in the Events Listing (p7)

*Manchester Animal Protection
(07951 228 981/07931 586 826)*

H2 Oh!

The Hydrogen Energy Association of the UK and Ireland (HEAUKI) was set up in Manchester at the start of the year to promote hydrogen energy as a green alternative to fossil fuels.

At the heart of all fossil fuels lies the carbon atom which can only release its energy by combining with oxygen in the atmosphere (eg by burning), producing carbon dioxide as a byproduct. For this reason, whatever kind of fossil fuel we burn – whether it's coal, oil, gas or derivatives – and wherever we burn it, in cars, factories or in the kitchen, we expel carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

This is damaging because the carbon dioxide can stay in our atmosphere for 100 years, acting as a heat retaining blanket around the Earth. (Carbon dioxide is a major gas contributing to “global warming”, or “global climatic change” as it is more accurately known.) This is gradually creating a less predictable, more turbulent climate, the consequences of which could be catastrophic for us all.

HEAUKI exists because of the strongly held belief of its founders that an alternative fuel can be brought into play. A fuel which would not harm the Earth's climate and which could – or should – replace all fossil fuels in their major uses. This fuel is hydrogen.

If hydrogen were easy to find and cheap to use, it would already have displaced fossil fuels since it burns cleanly (producing just water vapour) and can be engineered to power everything. Unfortunately, hydrogen is not so easy to find and has to be manufactured by splitting water. This itself requires some energy so it is important to use solar, wind or wave energy to achieve the splitting.

HEAUKI campaigns for the adoption of hydrogen as the fuel of choice for all human needs, and for immediate, well-funded research into the difficulties which prevent hydrogen being produced in necessary large quantities.

*Mike Koefman, HEAUKI (0161 273 8595
co-ordinator@hydrogen-heauki.org)*

Pool Protest Sinks

The campaign to save Gorton Tub is over, but with the sad closure of the swimming baths. Despite a sit in by about 30 people in the Manchester City Council chamber, the council took the final decision to close the pool for good. By 4pm the same day the pool's manager had been told to stop admissions.

According to the Manchester Evening News, a member of staff said: “We feel we have been kept completely in the dark. We had been told just to work one day at a time and didn't know what the situation was. We have been offered other jobs but there is no choice in where we can go and the hours and shifts have all changed. We've basically been told we can like it or lump it. We feel we have been treated disgracefully. There is a lot of anger about the way this has been handled.”

Tub campaigner, Tony Martin, commented, “The council in the face of overwhelming community opposition have chosen to close Gorton Tub. They have not the mandate to do so. The real democrats in this city are the ordinary people of Gorton and their like. This council represents the interests of the rich backers of the Commonwealth Games and not the ordinary people of East Manchester. The closure of Gorton Tub, for a saving of £75,000 whilst hundreds of millions can be spent on the Games is an absolute disgrace. We are not going to let them get away with it.”

Council leader Richard Leese said the Tub was expensive, inefficient and wasteful and added its closure would allow more money to be ploughed into other leisure facilities. As a recorded verdict was taken on the Tub, protesters shouted from the public gallery. Many believe the Tub has been sacrificed to help save money for the Commonwealth Games next year.

*Save Gorton Tub campaign: (Ian Allinson 231 5827,
Lynda Shentall 223 9814, Tony Martin 225 2253,
Councillor Jackie Pearcey 336 0468, Steve Allen 0794
735 8603, info@savegortontub.freeserve.co.uk)*

Driven Insane

A new report has come out that claims the sheer boredom of life as a captive lab animal may lead to brain damage. Whilst not entirely a surprising outcome it's another reason against testing on animals. Firstly, just being couped up is cruel to them, but secondly any results using animals that may have gone insane must be questionable to say the least.

(Taken from a report in *The Guardian* see:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/Archive/Article/0,4273,4246199,00.html>)

Positively Munchy

According to *Uncaged* the following cat and dog foods are produced by companies not involved in animal experiments and should be bought in preference to products by companies such as Iams (who published 24 papers between 1991 and 2000 describing horrific animal experiments on 460 cats and dogs – see

<http://www.uncaged.co.uk/iams.htm>):

Alpha (01427 880 914)
Berties (01202 672 300)
Butchers, Denes (01273 325 364)
Green Ark (01282 606 810)
Happidog (01325 311 444)
Hi-Life
Nutro (01494 775 222)
Pascoe's Organic (01278 444 555)
Vegecat (01424 427 393)
Wackidog (01422 345 513)
Wafcol (0161 480 2781)
Wagg (0800 174 277)
Webbox
Yarrah (07785 286 744)

Stop the Ships Cats

National and local media has recently reported the new craze created by "Ships Cats". These novelty gifts, shaped as a small sleeping cat are made from real rabbit fur. Rabbit fur is the product of cruel factory-farming where animals are crammed into tiny wire cages before being slaughtered by various cruel methods.

The cats can be found in gift and card shops all over the country, many of them being imported by a company called *Nauticalia*. This company claims to donate proceeds from the sale to animal welfare groups, but are reluctant to name these charities and even makes the donations anonymously.

Unfortunately for *Nauticalia* all the recipient charities so far contacted by CAFT (***Coalition to Abolish the Fur Trade***) have returned the money and have told the company that they don't want to be associated with fur products.

Please look out in shops for these cats and let us know if you see them (please give the name and address of the shop, price of a cat and any details on the label such as the manufacturer and importer).

Also, please send complaints to *Nauticalia* asking them to stop selling real fur: Mr Lynn Lewis, *Nauticalia* Ltd, The Ferry Point, Ferry Lane, Shepperton-on-Thames, TW17 9LQ. Tel: 01932 244 396, fax: 01932 241 679, email: sales@nauticalia.com

If you find yourself in the Trafford Centre why not make a complaint in the *Nauticalia* store at 102 Regent Crescent (0161 747 0333).

CAFT's National Week of Action on 17–24 November will be highlighting the slaughter of animals for their fur. They are also planning a National Day of Action against the sale of these fur cats.

Contact CAFT further information on rabbit farming or the fur trade, and the campaigns to stop them.

Coalition to Abolish the Fur Trade (07939 264 864, caft@caft.demon.co.uk, <http://www.caft.org.uk>)

Fiesta of Life at DESi Arms Fair

Campaign Against Arms

Trade organised a procession to the gates of DSEi (Defence Systems & Equipment International) from Canning Town, on Tuesday 11 September to protest at the British Government-supported arms fair. Delegations attended the fair from countries in debt (Ghana & Brazil), countries with internal conflict (Sri Lanka & Morocco), countries with human rights abuses (Algeria & China) and from where British arms were used by both sides – Turkey and Greece, India and Pakistan, Israel and Middle Eastern countries.

I arrived early and met other CAAT supporters and a wide range of people from CND, peace groups, people from religious groups etc. About three hundred of us joined together to form a procession and walked through Canning Town to the Excel Centre, which was holding the exhibition. The police were

out in force and when we arrived at Excel they prevented us from getting anywhere near the Centre. The march ended at a cordoned off area which was used for the protestors to hear speeches and hold a vigil. Protestors were entertained during the day by a group of singers and by Kurdish and Palestinian speakers, for example, who could talk of the effects of the arms trade.

A “fiesta of life against death” was the unifying theme for the peace and anti-globalisation groups and up to a thousand joined their very colourful and musical march. They were heavily policed and were stopped on a flyover leading to the exhibition centre causing considerable traffic chaos. Overall a good turnout but I would have welcomed being closer and more visible to visitors to the Centre.

Mike, Manchester CAAT (224 6042)

Discussion Get-Together

A number of people who have come from the “left” but who have battled to free themselves from its dogma and sect-like organisations, have decided to get together to exchange ideas on capitalism and globalisation.

The first one is at 29 Demesne Road, Whalley Range on Sunday 14 October from 11am until 4pm. For the first session they are looking at the limitations on capitalism’s ability to “green” itself and the relationship between human society and nature.

Bob Myers, Movement for Socialism (0161 226 6796)

Alternative Radio

Wythenshawe FM takes to the air for two weeks from 6 October and ALL (Ardwick, Longsight, Levenshulme) FM for two weeks from 27 October. Call 0161 499 7982 or 0161 248 4644, respectively, to book your say on the issues of your choice (so long as they’re relevant to the area).

The two stations will return for a year each in February as part of a pilot scheme for community radio, so get on board for this grassroots media revolution!

*Radio Regen (0161 237 5012
info@radioregen.org)*

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Swapping Cars for Buses in Exchange Street

Saturday 22 September was European Car Free Day and so, armed with determination, a cardboard car, a handful of bus tickets and masses of free fruit, **Manchester Friends of the Earth** headed for Exchange Street (the entrance to St Anne's Square) to promote the benefits of a car free lifestyle. With the blessing of the council they unveiled a day of entertainment, food and politics, all designed to convince shoppers to think about the way they travel.

We all know that the rising tide of traffic is ecologically and socially unsustainable,

but we need reminding that there are sensible, practical alternatives. This festival showed how much more fun and sociable a street can be without cars.

The day was opened by Manchester City Council's Deputy Leader Martin Pagel, Ruth Turner from Sustainability NW (and co-founder of Big Issue in the North) and Val Stevens for the GMPTA. Shoppers were lured over by "Sambangra" the excellent Manchester samba band and were pleasantly bemused by the free organic fruit. While kids enjoyed the giant ark (a lively symbol of the threat of

climate change) and a 2m inflatable globe, parents discussed with campaigners the practicalities of car-free life. Those convinced to give up their cars for a day were given a free day travel pass for the whole county. MFoE hope to have reports back from some of these intrepid individuals in the near future to see if they'll be getting out of their cars more often.

*Graeme Sherriff, Manchester
Friends of the Earth (834 8221,
info@mcrfoe.dabsol.co.uk
http://www.mcrfoe.dabsol.co.uk)*

New Electronic Home for the Networking Newsletter Project

The **Networking Newsletter Project** has registered its own domain name. Our website is now

<http://www.networkingnewsletter.org.uk>

and you should send all emails to

info@networkingnewsletter.org.uk

The old web site and email address, with Dial Pipex, will cease to function shortly so please ensure you're up to date by checking and changing:

- your address book entries
- any contacts lists or newsletters you have that mention the Networking Newsletter
- any links on your web site to the Networking Newsletter.

AUTUMNAL ACTIVITIES

Here's another packed listing of all sorts of campaigns and activities to get involved in. For updates, more details and links to other groups' websites check out:

<http://www.networkingnewsletter.org.uk/Calendar/dates.html>

Note the new URL! Remember to check details of the events with organisers before attending. To list your events, for free, here and on the Web page, contact Michael on 0161 226 9321 or info@networkingnewsletter.org.uk

Campaigns are given in red

Meetings, conferences and training are given in blue

**An up to date version of the
calendar is at**

[http://www.networkingnewsletter.org.uk/
Calendar/dates.html](http://www.networkingnewsletter.org.uk/Calendar/dates.html)

REGULARS

An up to date version of regular events is at

<http://www.networkingnewsletter.org.uk/Calendar/regular.html>

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RESOURCES

**An up to date version of
resources is at**

[http://www.networkingnewsletter.org.uk/
Resources](http://www.networkingnewsletter.org.uk/Resources)

What Can You Offer?

One of the Networking Newsletter Project's objectives is to network groups, not just in terms of phone numbers but also sharing skills and resources. If you look at the above list you'll see the same groups again and again. Isn't there anything *your* group would like to offer? What skills or experience do you have that others might not? Do you have books and references you're happy to lend to others? Or is there something you'd like – we're happy to put a "WANTED" notice in the next issue for you.

**Networking Newsletter Project
0161 226 9321**

What is the "Networking Newsletter"???

This newsletter is just part of the Networking Newsletter Project which provides information and training for campaigners in the region who are working for positive change on issues of peace, development, environment, women, human rights and animal rights and other "social justice" campaigns. The *Networking Newsletter*, both in this printed form and on the web site at

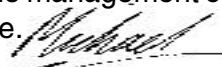
<http://www.networkingnewsletter.org.uk> gives the latest news on all these issues, as well as pulling together in one publication all the campaigns happening over the next few months.

The *Networking Newsletter* is available by subscription for very reasonable rates, if I may say so (see below). Free copies are sometimes distributed around the city, primarily at 6 Mount Street, Cafe Pop (Oldham St), Chorlton Wholefoods (64 Beech Rd) ERIC (Central Library), MARC (28 Edge St., Northern Quarter) Misty's veggie cafe (Longsight), MERCi/Bridge 5 Mill (22a Beswick St, Ancoats) & Unicorn Grocery (Chorlton). Various local libraries also stock copies. If you know of elsewhere for copies to be left then let me know, especially if you're happy to deliver them if I post you a bundle of copies.

Next Issue

The next issue of the *Networking Newsletter* will be out at the end of November. Articles, photos and good jokes should be sent by Friday 23 November to 6 Mount St, Manchester M2 5NS, fax 0161 834 5797 (marked for attention of the Networking Newsletter) or email info@networkingnewsletter.org.uk Articles should be 50-250 words long (and preferably) with a picture or other graphic.

Suggestions for improving the newsletter, as are volunteers for the management committee, are always welcome.



Please return to: Networking Newsletter Project, 6 Mount Street, Manchester M2 5NS.

Name Tel:
Address
Organization
Email: Web site:

I don't need 3 copies, please save paper and send me just copy/ies, thanks!

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£4 unemployed/students [1 copy per issue]

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£25 voluntary groups (with staff)

£12 voluntary groups (no staff)

£60 statutory bodies/(ethical) businesses

Please make cheques payable to "Networking Newsletter".

Walking School Bus

Tuesday 2 October was "International Walk to School" day and various schools in the region took part. As the *Manchester Evening News* reported:

Children at Crowcroft Park Primary School in Longsight were among the first in the city to work with road safety officers as part of a course developed for the day. Headteacher Heather Stemp hopes the lessons will encourage parents and their children to spend less time in the car on needless journeys. As well as leading to dangerous congestion around school gates she says it can increase pollution in the playground: "The majority of children do walk because they live so close to the school and, obviously, there is a small minority who have to come by car because they live so far away. But there are a number of families who live two or three streets away and still come by car. I think it's just habit, especially if it's raining. Even if these courses convert just half a dozen children and their parents to walk to school it will make a difference."

The "Step Outside" courses are also being held at All Saints in Gorton, Moston Lane in Moston, and Ravensbury in Clayton to coincide with a national campaign to encourage youngsters to walk to school. Councillor Val Stevens, Manchester city council's executive member for planning and transport, said: "Walking to school has a range of benefits, including health benefits and the alleviation of parking problems. New research has found that teachers think it is an excellent way for pupils to wake up fully so they are ready for the first lesson of the day."

More information:

<http://www.walktoschool.f9.co.uk>