

# NETWORKING NEWSLETTER

ISSUE #48

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2003

## Manchester's West Bank Wall

Manchester shoppers came face to face with apartheid West Bank style in mid-July, when over 200 local activists demonstrated the impact of the huge security wall being built by the Israeli Government on Palestinian land. Building their own wall across Albert Square from cardboard boxes the "Wall Down!" demonstration raised public awareness about the construction of the security wall. Bigger than the Berlin Wall, the planned barrier is 370 miles long, 25 feet high and 12 feet wide and is being built on the Palestinian side of the "Green Line" (Israel's



extended borders agreed in 1949 at the end of the first Arab-Israeli War).

To graphically illustrate the monstrous nature of this crime, a wall made from cardboard

boxes was built outside Manchester Town Hall and decorated with posters, photographs and painted slogans.

*Continued on page 14*

## Urban Voices, Future Choices



*Jaina Almeida from Curitiba, Brazil, in front of their display*

A two day conference on "Learning for Sustainable Cities", held recently at Manchester Town Hall, brought together educators and community workers engaged in education for sustainable development (ESD), with a particular focus on disseminating the outcomes of the Development Education Project's three year Learning for Sustainable Cities project to teachers and community groups.

*See page 5 for report.*

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*Bishop begins balloon release - see page 2*

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>

## Tons Weigh in for Trade Justice

Phillip Woolas, MP for Oldham East and Saddleworth, heard the message before he had even arrived at the event when 22 children, from 6 to 12 years old, lobbied him on the train into Manchester. Arriving in the city centre, the young campaigners performed a Trade Justice rap in St. Ann's Square, each dressed to represent a country that is losing out from unfair trade rules.



Oldham rappers giving voice for trade justice Credit: TJM

Noon Friday 27 to noon Saturday 28 June was the **Trade Justice Movement** (TJM)'s main event of the year: 24 hours when MPs were lobbied for fairer world trade. On the Saturday, 250 people gathered in St Ann's Square to add their weight to the call for trade justice. A corner of the square became "the lobbying corner" as city centre MP, Tony Lloyd, heard the call for trade justice from his constituents. A billboard announced that a fantastic total of 25 of 28 MPs in the Manchester area had been lobbied.

Campaigners heard how trade rules impact on Kenya from Mutuwa Waema, who is studying economics at Manchester University. The host of the event was local radio presenter Mike Shaff from Greater Manchester Radio and there was live music from "Hohodza", a Zimbabwean band. Duncan Green from CAFOD explained how unfair rules are hurting the poor around the world and the Bishop of Middleton also lent his voice to the campaign.

Crowds then joined the nationwide "weigh in" as the bells of St. Ann's Church rang out and hundreds of Trade Justice balloons were released. By the end of the event, almost 50,000kgs (50 tonnes) of Mancunian passers-by had added their weight to the message, literally, by stepping on to the industrial scales!

*Chris, Oxfam (0161 838 5620)*

*Manchester TJM*

[http://www.tjm-manchester.org.uk/tjm\\_manchester.htm](http://www.tjm-manchester.org.uk/tjm_manchester.htm)

## Manchester's First Peoples' Assembly

200 people attended Manchester's first "People's Assembly" in June, which followed the success of the National People's Assembly held in London in March. Called by the local **Stop the War Coalition** and the **Committee to Defend Asylum Seekers**, the aim was to bring together a wide variety of people and organisations in a relaxed event where everyone could speak and be heard, where people could network and find out what others were doing so as to support it.

During the afternoon event, people discussed new media, asylum seekers, anti-racism, privatisation, the international situation and the anti-war movement. There was a young people's space in the sun and lots of asylum seekers came and contributed to the discussion.

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### For all breaking news:

[www.networkingnewsletter.org.uk/stop\\_press.shtml](http://www.networkingnewsletter.org.uk/stop_press.shtml)

As Pete from Chorlton reported back in *The Mancunian*, the newsletter of the Assembly, "The future of politics is DIY. We're not just against war; we're against the system that creates war. We have to work together with the many millions worldwide who want a better world. We are part of the world social forum movement and we want our thoughts, voices and actions to show that there are better ways to get things done. Afterwards a banner went up at a military parade outside the Town Hall. The police weighed in violently with two arrests. The banner read "Another World is Possible" – if only they could read!"

Launched by the Manchester Stop the War Coalition, the People's Assembly is not a one-off event. It will be meeting every three months in order to exchange information and plan further actions. It will involve as broad a range of groups and individuals as possible. The next People's Assembly is on Saturday 4 October, venue to be announced.

*Manchester People's Assembly (07 986 305 320,  
peoplesassembly@manchestersstopthewar.org)  
<http://www.manchestersstopthewar.org/pap.html>*

# In Town Without My Car

September 22 is European "In Town Without My Car" Day. **Manchester Friends of the Earth** were instrumental in getting things moving in the region by, with permission of Manchester City Council, holding a car-free festival on Exchange Street in 2001 and, last year, lobbying all the local authorities in the region to partake. In 2002, Manchester City Council closed Deansgate, Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council held a mini-festival on Great Underbank in the town centre with music and the launch of a walking route through the borough, Bury closed a road again with entertainment and information and Rochdale ran a led cycle ride in and around Heywood & Middleton townships.

This year, September 22 falls on a Monday. As the *Networking Newsletter* went to press we had the following information (check <http://www.networkingnewsletter.org.uk/sustainable> for updates and reports):

**Manchester** are again closing Deansgate, but on the Sunday, for an arts/crafts fair with local transport lobby groups, and on the Monday itself plan to make the area around Albert Square car-free over the lunchtime period, with the local eateries serving food to tables set out in the road.

**Wigan**, although not closing any roads, are organising an environment fair in a pedestrianised area in the town centre with



stalls covering health, fitness, environmental issues plus promotional materials for current travel plans and alternative modes of transport. They will also be promoting the Yellow Bus scheme by using it to bring school children to the fair.

**Bury** will turn the town's Market Place, with temporary road closures, over to a special event run around the theme of "In Town without My Car" on the Saturday (10am-4pm). Bury have worked consistently towards reducing reliance on the motor car and that has involved a variety of schemes, from the introduction of cycle lanes and routes, to enhancing public transport and encouraging more people to make use of it. This year, their staff will again be promoting the health and environmental benefits of alternative modes of travel to the car. At the same time, they will also show how space presently taken up by cars and parking could be enjoyed and appreciated if the dependency on vehicles was reduced. A host of activities are planned from a live radio show, street entertainment, street cafés, and various information displays and stalls.

**Bolton** has decided to support the event but not to hold its own road closure. They are awaiting confirmation of GMPTE's offer of free bus tickets so they can promote these throughout the borough on the day.

We understand that out of the remaining boroughs, **Rochdale**, **Salford** and **Stockport** all plan to hold an event but not to close any roads. **Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Executive** (GMPTE) will also be supporting the day and hope to distribute free all-day all-services bus tickets to non-bus users; details should be appearing on buses and at bus stops throughout August.



*Mark Hunter, Leader of Stockport MBC pictured at last year's Stockport event getting the green light for his personnel travel plans*

*Michael Bane, Networking Newsletter Project*

# Assiduous Animal Protection

It's been a busy time for **Manchester Animal Protection (MAP)**, raising awareness of cruelty to animals. The end of May was a week of action against greyhound racing and the campaigners hit the streets of Stockport, Rochdale and Bury to urge members of the public not to place bets on greyhound racing. With the help of a large black dustbin containing a fake severed greyhound head campaigners handed out hundreds of leaflets to the passing public and collected petition signatures calling for a ban on the greyhound industry.

The protest was held to highlight the plight of greyhounds bred for racing and how many are simply "binned" every year once their "useful" life is over. The UK greyhound racing industry is responsible for the deaths of tens of thousands of greyhounds each year – the dogs are killed when they lose their economic worth. Yearly 40,000 greyhounds are bred in the British Isles to supply the demands of the UK greyhound racing industry. The vast majority of these dogs will be disposed of by the industry before they are 3 years old with only a few percent of these "unwanted" greyhounds finding good homes. Most are either put to death or face an even worse fate. The lucky dogs are those destroyed by a vet! Many are just abandoned or killed by a variety of horrific methods, eg clubbing, drowning or injection with poisonous substances.

The only real solution to this horrific state of affairs is for greyhound racing to be banned. Six states in the USA have banned greyhound racing in recent years so there is no reason why a ban shouldn't be imposed in the UK.

Greyhound racing began in the UK on 24 July 1926, here at Belle Vue. The nearest Sunday to this date every year is "Greyhound Remembrance Day" and, as we went to press, MAP were holding



MAP campaigning outside a Rochdale betting shop

a vigil outside the Belle Vue greyhound racing stadium in memory of the hundreds of thousands of dogs that have been abused and killed by the greyhound racing industry since that day.

## Halfords Stop Monkeying About

As reported in the last issue of the *Networking Newsletter*, animal rights groups were outraged at Halfords, the cycle and car part retailer, using chimpanzees in a TV commercial aka the old PG Tips adverts with its portrayal of chimps dressed in clothes and acting as humans. Animal rights campaigners a day of action against Halfords in mid-July with demos all around Gtr Manchester. These attracted a positive response from the public and Halfords staff alike with many people being disgusted at Halfords. However, due to actions such as this around the country and many writing to the Independent Television Commission, Halfords have now said they will not be using chimps in commercials again. People power works!

*Manchester Animal Protection (0845 456 2492, info@mapsoc.org.uk) <http://www.mapsoc.org.uk>*

*Greyhound Action (01562 745778, greyhoundaction@blueyonder.co.uk)*

*Captive Animals' Protection Society (0845 330 7955)*

## Make a Splash

Preparations for the twelfth annual Mersey Basin Week are gathering steam as thousands of people make plans to take part in hundreds of water themed events throughout the Northwest. The week, which celebrates the region's rivers, canals and waterside environments, has gone from strength to strength for more than a decade. Organised by the Mersey Basin Campaign, the winner of the 1999 World River prize for its work in cleaning the river Mersey, it takes place 4-12 October.

Volunteer groups, schools and individuals are encouraged to organise and take part in activities ranging from tree planting and guided walks to arts events for children. Support is on hand from the Mersey Basin Campaign's local coordinators and grants of up to £100 are available to help pay for materials or anything else needed for a successful event. Busy schedules and the number of events organised in past years means that the time to get involved is now.

*Bev Mitchell, Mersey Basin Campaign (0161 242 8212, b.Mitchell@merseybasin.org.uk)*

*<http://www.merseybasin.org.uk>*

NETWORKING NEWSLETTER #48 (AUGUST 2003)

## Urban Voices, Future Choices

Day One of the conference (see page 1), with 72 participants, offered a series of eight stimulating workshops throughout the day, followed by a lively plenary session identifying barriers/challenges and opportunities/ways forward to creating schools in a sustainable city. These provided issues and ideas to take forward to Day Two.

The morning of Day Two was attended by 51 participants and offered a series of fascinating international perspectives on creating sustainable cities, followed by discussion groups leading to a debate on the issues raised. A number of site visits to projects of interest in Manchester took place during the afternoon.

Feedback to the event has been extremely positive, eg "The Sustainable Cities Project has generated some very interesting work, which it was great to hear about", "Inspiring, especially the Peer Education in Gambia" and "A very interesting and stimulating conference... working in Waste Education we wish to develop more home/school links... this conference has given us some ideas."

To finish off the conference, there was a successful networking event in the evening with over 60 participants – representing 39 groups from allotment societies to Trade Justice campaigners – engaging in discussions to enhance school & community links and share experiences from different cities around the world. Many new contacts were made and there is talk regarding joint projects. Watch this space for plans for a follow up event.

The event was organised by **Development Education Project** with Southern Voices, Mersey Basin Trust, Mcr Environmental Education Network, Manchester Healthy Schools Partnership, Environment Network for Mcr & the Networking Newsletter Project, plus schools & NGOs in Manchester, Banjul, Curitiba and Mumbai. A full conference report and further information on the Learning for Sustainable Cities project from the DEP website.

*Clive, Manchester DEP (445 2495,  
depman@gn.apc.org)  
<http://www.dep.org.uk/cities>*

*Anton, Environment Network for  
Manchester (0161 273 1736,  
info@manchesterenvironment.net)*

*Michael Bane, Networking Newsletter  
Project (0161 226 9321,  
michael@networkingnewsletter.org.uk)  
[www.networkingnewsletter.org.uk](http://www.networkingnewsletter.org.uk)*



*One discussion group at the evening networking event*

## Hello to a New Host!

The *Networking Newsletter* recently moved its web domain host to a more ethical company. Our web site is now hosted by **RedBlackandGreen** which is a small operation who can provide web space to campaign groups and voluntary organizations for the very reason fee of a tenner a year. We've also found them much more reliable than our previous web host.

There are a couple of drawbacks but they're very minor: you still have to have a separate Internet Service Provider (ISP) to connect to the Internet (but it can be anybody and you can still upload your files to the web) and there is essentially only one real email address so you have to configure your email software a bit differently. Back on the positive side, London-based RedBlackandGreen is probably the most ethical, reasonably priced, service available (and the *Networking Newsletter* hopes to work with them to set up a similar service physically based in Manchester). Plus you get lots of stats automatically about your site, so we're proud to announce that the *Networking Newsletter* web site [www.networkingnewsletter.org.uk](http://www.networkingnewsletter.org.uk) gets, on average, over 100 different visits (each to several different pages) and over 1000 hits each day!

If you're interested in moving your site to RedBlackandGreen contact Paul and mention you heard about them via the *Networking Newsletter*.

*RedBlackandGreen  
(paul@redblackandgreen.net)  
<http://www.redblackandgreen.net>*

# Manchester Rejects GM

A full version of this article is available on our web site at

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

At a packed public meeting in July, Manchester residents voted overwhelmingly against the commercial growing of Genetic Modified (GM) crops in Britain. 114 voted in favour of a motion "the potential risks of GM crops outweigh the potential benefits" with none against and only one abstention. 112 were in favour of Manchester declaring itself a GM-free zone, only 1 against.

In July the Government had run a consultation, "GM Nation?" to gather the public's view on the growing of GM crops in the UK. No event was planned for Manchester, so the local **Friends of the Earth** group and **Unicom Grocery** decided to call their own, featuring the official "GM Nation?" video, five minute presentations from a panel of experts, followed by a discussion and questions from the floor.

The panel was chaired by Lance Crooks (Manchester Green Party) with members: Jonathan (Corporate Watch) speaking against the commercial growing of GM crops, Sue Meyer (Genewatch) talking a neutral stance and Beth Knowles (Unicom Grocery) agreed to speak in favour of the commercial growing of GM crops since the organisers had found it impossible to find an expert prepared to speak in favour of GM crops.

A recent Consumer Association survey noted that less than one third of the population found GM foodstuffs acceptable and most major supermarkets are refusing to sell GM products. The evening's results reinforced these concerns. During the evening the following points



*The public votes to reject GM crops*

were made: local organic food businesses would suffer if the crops they rely on were contaminated with GM; there have been no properly controlled clinical trials on the effects of GM on human health; the use of herbicide resistant crops has actually increased the use of herbicides in many cases; less than 1% of GM research and development is aimed at resource-poor farmers, and so far GM is proving more expensive and giving lower yields. Small farmers would have to stop their age-old practice of saving seeds from year to year.

Graeme Sherriff, Manchester FoE, said: "GM crops should not be planted in the UK until their safety and need is proven and until the public accept them. Neither of these criteria have been satisfied."

*Graeme Sherriff, Manchester Friends of the Earth  
(0161 834 8221, [graeme@manchesterfoe.org.uk](mailto:graeme@manchesterfoe.org.uk))  
<http://www.manchesterfoe.org.uk>*

*Beth Knowles, Unicom Grocery (0161 861 0010,  
[office@unicom-grocery.co.uk](mailto:office@unicom-grocery.co.uk))*

*GM Nation? <http://www.gmnation.org.uk>*

## Ashamed of Your Mobile?

...continued from page 16

In December 2002 a peace deal was signed between the governments and militias fighting in DRC. Whilst this promises an end to the colossal bloodshed, it does not provide a solution to the environmental and social problems caused by coltan mining. The same brutal military leaders run the operations, using the same sites and methods of mining. The people of DRC stay impoverished and starving, while 40% of their children die in infancy. Now there's the supposed peace in DRC, no companies have to obscure the routes for Congolese coltan, the trade can be formalised, hastened and expanded. This means the land over the reserves and the wildlife it supports will meet with an even quicker end. The only thing that can stop it is a drastic and immediate reduction in the demand for coltan products.

Unfortunately, there's another use for tantalum. Its ability to stay stable at high temperatures

means it is not just the only metal for computer processors. It makes it the ideal material for covering things that are going to get hot by flying very fast; the Bush administration is going to need a load of tantalum for the Star Wars project. George Bush Sr has foreseen this and is already on the board of Barrick, a Canadian mining conglomerate and third biggest buyer of coltan on earth. Even so, the bulk of the tantalum market is, literally, in our hands in the form of the latest hi-tech gizmo. The pressure on the hi-tech companies to stop using Congolese coltan had been based on the war in DRC. The environmental impact is also more than enough of a reason to stop using Congolese coltan.

In the UK last year we threw away enough mobiles to fill the Millennium Dome fourteen times over. On average they were 18 months old, and most of them still worked. So, if we all kept our phones for three years, we'd halve the phone makers use of tantalum. We have to stop being seduced by pointless upgrades.

We have to ignore Paul Merton's goading of us to be "ashamed" of a phone that works, we have to resist Nokia telling us that owning one of their gorilla-killers is "a declaration of independence" (expensive consumer goods are actually a declaration of dependence). Technology should not be a fashion accessory, and this is infinitely more important with technology that uses rare and unrecycleable materials like coltan.

Eastern Lowland gorillas, with whom we are a cousin species equally evolved from a recent common ancestor, face extinction. As the UN says, it would be "the first great ape to be driven to extinction - a victim of war, human greed and high technology". To remove such a wonderful intelligent species from earth forever is not worth any amount of Playstation 2s or mobile phones.

*Article written by Merrick Godhaven (with slight edits), originally taken from <http://www.headheritage.co.uk/uknow/features/index.php?id=41>*

# SIZZLING SUMMER SCORCHERS!

Welcome to the summer and the most comprehensive list of forthcoming events in Greater Manchester for peace, green, animal rights and other social justice issues. More details and regular updates from our website <http://www.networkingnewsletter.org.uk/Calendar>

Please check details of events with organisers before attending - we've done our best to ensure accuracy but... To list events for free, here and on the Web page, or to correct any details, contact Michael on 0161 226 9321, [info@networkingnewsletter.org.uk](mailto:info@networkingnewsletter.org.uk)

**Campaigns are given in red**

**Meetings, conferences and training are given in blue**

## 2001-2010

### **International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World**

Info: UNESCO [http://www3.unesco.org/iycp/uk/uk\\_mov.htm](http://www3.unesco.org/iycp/uk/uk_mov.htm)

### **Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism**

## 2003-2012

### **United Nations Literacy Decade: Literacy for All**

## 2003

### **European Year of Disabled People**

### **International Year of Freshwater**

<http://www.un.org/events/water>

## August

### **Saturday 2**

#### **Our Civil Liberties Under Attack**

2pm, Friends Meeting House, Mount Street M2. From Guantanamo Bay to the streets of Manchester, The War on Terrorism versus your right to protest. Meeting & workshop with Nick Wrack, barrister from Lawyers Against the War. Info: Richard Searle, Greater Manchester Coalition to Stop the War (07760 224 580, [info@manchestersstopthewar.org](mailto:info@manchestersstopthewar.org))

#### **A Decorating Blitz at Danceworld**

11am-3pm, Danceworld, 136 Withington Rd, Whalley Range. Danceworld Education Centre provides classes in the performing arts, Business Studies and languages for the local community and for international students in the area. Part of the building is a beautiful old cottage but the interior needs quite a lot of work. Volunteers will be involved in emulsions and glossing various rooms and stairwells inside the building. Info: GO Manchester (833 0245, [gomanchester@csv.org.uk](mailto:gomanchester@csv.org.uk))

### **Wednesday 6**

#### **Hiroshima Day Vigil**

12.30pm, Peace Gardens. Info: Manchester CND (273 8283)

#### **Ethnic Environmental Participation**

Wai Yin Centre, city centre, Manchester. The Black Environment Network is the leader in the field of ethnic community environmental participation working to create a framework within which full participation by ethnic communities in sustainable development can take place. This training day is for staff of countryside/environmental organizations who wish to reach out and work with ethnic communities and become part of a learning network. Bookings: Red Rose Forest (872 1660)

### **Wednesday 6 August**

#### **Casualisation at work**

8:30pm, "Hare and Hounds" public house, Shude Hill. Info: Manchester Solidarity Federation (07984 675281)

### **Thursday 7**

#### **Jews for Justice for Palestinians**

7.30pm, Friends Meeting House, Mount Street. Info: Jews for Justice for Palestinians ([just\\_peace\\_now@hotmail.com](mailto:just_peace_now@hotmail.com))

### **Saturday 9**

#### **UN International Day of the World's Indigenous People**

#### **Nagasaki Day Poetry and Song**

1pm, Cenotaph, Chorley Road, Swindon. Info: Salford CND (737 2388)

#### **It's Fun to Volunteer**

MANCAT Shakespeare Centre, Stockport Road, Ardwick. ALL Community Group Network and Manchester Volunteering Community Network, in association with a number of local organisations, will be holding a volunteering fun day with workshops for community group representatives and members of the public interested in volunteering, as well as a range of fun activities for all ages. Event is to promote volunteering to local people and for local voluntary and community groups to showcase their activities, network and gain information about volunteering issues. Info: Carl Gurden (2484 248)

#### **Dig Out**

11am-3pm, New Moston Primary School, Moston Lane East. New Moston Primary School has enlisted the help of a local gardening fanatic, Dena Murphy, who has been running gardening clubs for the children at the school. There is a quadrangle area in the school, which has become very overgrown and unsightly. The plan is to turn the garden into a living and working area that the children can use with themed sections. Volunteers will be cutting back bushes and uprooting trees in order to prepare the site for rejuvenation, providing some muscle. Wear clothes that are suitable for gardening and sturdy shoes. Lunch and refreshments will be provided. Info: GO Manchester (833 0245, [gomanchester@csv.org.uk](mailto:gomanchester@csv.org.uk))

### **Saturday 9**

#### **Post Games Volunteer Project Volunteer Fair**

11am-5pm, St Ann's Square. A year on from the Commonwealth Games, a Volunteer Fair about giving the public an insight into exactly what volunteering is all about and is a chance to celebrate volunteering. The organizers are asking all participants to organise interactive activities for their stands to attract the attention of the public whilst at the same time providing information about volunteering opportunities that are available. Contact the organizers to book a stall. Info: ([Giovanna.Carson@gameslegacy.com](mailto:Giovanna.Carson@gameslegacy.com))

# CLASHA VODA

**Tuesday 12 August**

**UN International Youth Day**

**The Gory Twelfth**

Start of grouse shoot sabbing season. Info: North West Hunt Saboteurs Association (07960038230)

**Wednesday 13 – Sunday 17**

**Earth First! Summer Gathering**

North Yorkshire A space for people involved in radical ecological direct action - or for those who want to be involved - to organise and share inspiration and information. For lifts/shares, call 0113 262 9365 or Manchester Earth First! (226 6814).

**Thursday 14**

**National Phone and Email Blockade of Nottingham Racecourse**

Blockade numbers: Nottingham Dogs (141 0115 910 333)

**Saturday 16**

**Create a New Garden Area**

11am-3pm, Petrie Court, Cromwell Rd, Salford M6. Petrie is a residential scheme for young people who have either been in care or homeless and it helps them get ready to live and work in the community. The residents have won awards for their gardens but there is a patch of land towards the back of the building, which has become overgrown and untidy. Volunteers will cut back all the bushes and clear up any rubbish so that the area can be made into a beautiful garden to be proud of. Wear shoes that are sturdy and suitable for gardening. Lunch and refreshments will be provided. Hopefully a barbecue if the weather is good! Info: GO Manchester (833 0245)

**Well Read Women**

£15 daytime; £10 evening; £22 for both. 9am-6pm, Central Hall, Oldham Street; 8pm-2am, Cellar bar Manchester University, Oxford Road. A celebration of lesbian contributions to literature and performance, followed by women's disco. Info: Anne-Marie or Jacky, "Pass The Book" bookshop, The Pankhurst Centre (2743525)

**Sunday 17**

**Party in the Park**

Phillips Park, East Manchester. Community festival. Info: East Manchester Community Forum (223 3418/230 6313)

**Wednesday 20**

**Sustainable Neighbourhoods**

5-6:30pm, VAM, North Square, 11-13 Spear Street M1. Meetings to provide an opportunity for your groups to input into decision making of the Sustainable Neighbourhoods Partnership who are dealing with a range of regeneration initiatives in the city. Info: Clare, Community Network for Manchester (237 9309)

**Saturday 23**

**UN International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition**

**Monday 25 August**

**National Day of Action Against Zoos**

Bank holiday campaigns and actions to highlight animal suffering in zoos. Protest outside zoos, including Southport Zoo, hold information stalls, etc. Info: Captive Animals' Protection Society (0845 330 3911); Southport Zoo Campaign (zooaction@hotmail.com)

**Tuesday 26**

**National Peoples Assembly Meeting**

7pm, 272 Dickenson Road, Longsight. Open meeting for delegates to national assembly (30 Aug). Info: Richard Searle (07760 224 580, ANSWERmanchester@aol.com)

**Saturday 30**

**3rd Global Day of Action against Adidas**

Protesting against the company's use of kangaroo skin in their footwear range. Info: VIVA! (0845 456 8220)

**Respect**

1-11pm, Platt Fields Park, Rusholme. Cultural festival promoting anti-racism with varied entertainment to reflect and represent the diversity of cultures that exist in Manchester. The focus will be on offering quality popular entertainment with an artistically challenging edge. Info: Nadine Andrews, Ear to the Ground (07977 515977)

**Gardening for the Elderly**

11am-3pm, Minehead Centre, Minehead Avenue, Withington. The Minehead Resource Centre is a most fascinating centre for senior citizens. The middle of the centre is a huge conservatory with amazing plants. Volunteers will be doing a general weed and tidy up of the garden to make it more user friendly for the elderly when they come to do their planting etc. Lunch and refreshments will be provided. Wear clothes suitable for gardening and sturdy shoes. Info: GO Manchester (833 0245)

**National Peoples Assembly**

London. Coach from Manchester. Info/transport: Richard Searle (07760 224 580, ANSWERmanchester@aol.com)

**Sunday 31**

**Aftermath**

£5. 2-10.30pm, "Night & Day" cafe, Oldham Street CND benefit with bands & DJs. Info: Greater Manchester and District CND (273 8283, gmdcnd@gn.apc.org)

## September

**Tuesday 2**

**Time Management**

From £90. Course for those who are constantly running behind schedule and would like to get on top of their work. Learn to recognise time wasters, plan effectively, organise your desk and prioritise your work, communicate effectively and deal with paper. Time management is one aspect of the management process and is particularly relevant to effective self-management. This course will have the most relevance for people who have control over their own workload. Bookings: Directory for Social Change North (0151 708 0117)

# NOVEMBER CALENDAR

## Tuesday 2 Sept

### The Iraqi Jews of Manchester

£3. Manchester Jewish Museum, 190 Cheetham Hill Road M8. Talk by Basil Jeuda Bookings: (834 9879)

## Wednesday 3

### Politics Without Politicians

8:30pm, "Hare & Hounds", Shude Hill. Discussion meeting. Info: Manchester Solidarity Foundation (07984675281)

## Thursday 4

### ISM Manchester

Equinox, Longsight. Meeting to support International Solidarity Movement including fundraising and planning events including report back talks, comedy night with Ivor Dembina (based on Jewish solidarity tour experiences) and Jeremy Hardy vs the Israeli Army film. Info: Jews for Justice for Palestinians (07760 127809)

## Saturday 6

### Decorating at the Women's Action Forum

11am-3pm, Women's Action Forum, 97 Princess Rd, Moss Side. The Women's Action Forum offers a range of activities to people from the local community. They offer English lessons, computer training, counselling skills and sewing classes. Vols will be doing some painting and decorating in their offices. Wear clothes that you don't mind getting paint on. Lunch and refreshments will be provided. Info: GO Manchester (833 0245)

## Sunday 7

### Science on Sunday

10am-4pm, Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester. Celebrate the opening of The BA Festival of Science the following week (8-12 Sept) at the Univ. of Salford. Includes family-friendly stalls including some on sustainable science. Info: Festival of Science (020 7973 3052)

## Monday 8

### UN International Literacy Day

## Tuesday 9 – Friday 12

### Disarm DSEI

Docklands, London. Transport from Manchester. Campaign to shutdown the Defences Systems & Equipment International arms fair - Europe's largest trade fair for guns, bombs, military planes, small arms, mines and tanks. Info: Disarm DSEI (0781 7652029). Local info/transport: Mike Kavanagh, Manchester Campaign Against the Arms Trade (224 6042)

## Tuesday 9 – Thursday 11

### British Ecological Society AGM

Manchester Metropolitan University. Lectures and sessions on ecological issues including aquatic ecology, wetland ecology and climate change. Info: British Ecological Society (020 8871 9797)

## Tuesday 9 Sept

### Making High Scoring Applications to the Community Fund

From £85. YHA, Castlefield. Workshops concentrating on devising/presenting projects that will score highly against the specific criteria for the Community Fund grants programmes. Bookings: Directory of Social Change (020 7209 4949)

### Urban Living: A Safer, Greener Future?

6pm, Conference Suite, Clifford Whitworth Building, University of Salford. As part of the Economic and Social Research Council's contribution to this year's British Association Festival of Science at Salford University, the ESRC is co-hosting, a lively debate on the sustainability of cities. The event will look at the contribution of recent research in ecology, technology and social sciences to the development of sustainable and living sites. It will discuss with a public audience a range of issues such as: design against crime, affordable/sustainable housing, and a greener environment for people and wildlife, the need for an integrated approach to urban problems, and local issues for Salford. Info: Urban Living Conference Desk (020 8542 7622)

## Wednesday 10 & Thursday 11

### Managing Volunteers

From £140. Manchester. For team leaders who want to develop their team and maximise their potential. Making a team into a coherent unit rather than a group of individuals takes time and thought. This course will examine leadership and team roles and the conditions which help or hinder team development. Bookings: Directory for Social Change North (0151 7080117)

## Wednesday 10

### A Load of Old Rubbish?

Salford. Seminars by Professor Robert van der Noort, Exeter Univ., speaking about the archaeology of rubbish; Andrew Emery, Cardiff University who is working with his local authority on ways of dealing with their household waste materials such as kerb side collections of recyclables; Friends of the Earth; and Professor McNicholas from Salford University who works on converting the waste sludge that results from recycling waste paper into a range of board products suitable for use in construction industry. Info: David Neil (020 7636 5422)

## Thursday 11

### Eagle Heights Birds of Prey

£5. 6:30pm, Univ. of Salford. Show suitable for all ages. The amazing world of birds of prey – their design and ecology and the dangers that come from being at the top of the food chain. Meet them as they are introduced to you, and watch them fly! Info: Festival of Science (020 7973 3052)

## Friday 12 – Sunday 14

### Conflict Resolution

From £20. Friends Meeting House, Bolton. Workshop looking at the underlying causes of violence and exploring new ways of dealing with conflict. Level One workshop. Info: Alternatives to Violence Project (832 3660)

## Saturday 13 & Sunday 14 Sept

### National Heritage Open Days

#### Victoria Baths Open Days

12-4pm, Hathersage Road M13. Open Days at the Victorian baths, described as the most splendid municipal bathing institution in the country, but closed since 1993. Info: Friends of Victoria Baths (224 2020 (day), 224 8437 (eve))

## Saturday 13

### Murals at School

11am-3pm, St. Malachy's School, Eggington St, Nr. Collyhurst. St. Malachy's is a lovely school which is very community minded. Staff from the school will be available on the day to participate in the activities. Volunteers will be painting a mural following on from the work done at the school in June when a mural was painted on the portacabin. Volunteers should wear clothes that you don't mind getting paint on. Food and refreshments will be provided. Info: GO Manchester (833 0245)

### Mixed Benefits Bop

£5. 8pm, Manchester Bridge Club, 30 Palatine Rd, Withington. Proceeds to Amnesty, Friends of the Earth, Oxfam & NSPCC. Info: Margaret (445 2856), Alan (248 5113)

## Monday 15

### Strategic Planning

From £80. Course for anyone who wants to learn how to make their organisation think, manage and act strategically. Directory for Social Change (0151 708 0117)

## Tuesday 16 – Monday 22

### European Mobility Week 2003

Accessibility will be the central focus for European Mobility Week 2003. The aim is to create a pleasant city, which provides sustainable mobility for *all* people, meeting the specific needs of different groups in our society. With this focal theme, the European Mobility Week wants to contribute to the European Year of Persons with Disabilities.

## Tuesday 16

### International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer

#### City Centre Living: Ups and Downs

£3. 7pm, Friends Meeting House, Mount Street M2. Chris Brown, Igloo Regeneration, speaking on whether living in Manchester City Centre is just for singletons, professionals, childless couples? Will there eventually be facilities to provide for families with children? Can flats co-exist with clubs and bars? Can socially and economically balanced communities be created?. Info: Manchester Civic Society (343 7100, info@manchestercivic.org.uk)

## Wednesday 17

### Charity Know How

11am-7pm, Bridgewater Hall Info: Voluntary Action Manchester (236 3206, info@vamanchester.org.uk)

## Wednesday 17

### Assertiveness Training

From £90. Manchester. This course will help you improve your self-esteem and enhance effective communications with colleagues and others. Bookings: Directory for Social Change North (0151 708 0117)

## Saturday 20 – Sunday 28 Sept

### Welcome to Walking Week

Welcome to Walking Week is one of the Ramblers' flagship events in the calendar with walks open to anyone to encourage people to get out there and try walking! With over 250 walks around Britain last year, this year's event promises to be even bigger and better. Info: Ramblers (020 7339 8573, rebeccab@london.ramblers.org.uk)

## Saturday 20

### Diaries of Despair

Day of action to call for an independent inquiry into the horrid scandal of pig-to-primate organ transplants. Organise a visit to your MP's constituency surgery to lobby them to support the campaign for an independent Judicial Inquiry into the Diaries of Despair affair, protest at New Labour's shameful betrayal of animals outside local Labour Party HQs or conduct town centre information stalls and protests to enlist the public's support for this historic campaign. Uncaged Campaigns (0114 272 2220)

### Bulb Planting

11am-3pm, Sand Street, Collyhurst. Volunteers will be planting narcissi bulbs in front of a prepared wildflower area. Please ensure that you wear suitable shoes for gardening and clothes that you don't mind getting dirty. No toilets on site. Snacks provided but please bring a packed lunch. Info: GO Manchester (833 0245)

## Sunday 21

### United Nations International Day of Peace

Info: Peace One Day (020 7456 91 80)

### Greyhound Planet

Sponsored dog walks for greyhound protection. Info: Greyhound Action (01562 745778)

## Monday 22 – Sunday 28

### Road Safety Week

The theme is Child Pedestrian Safety.

## Monday 22

### In Town Without My Car Day

Car-free events in Europe, including many Manchester boroughs. See page 3.

### Overview of Volunteer Management

From £90. This course combines theory and practice, and for those new to volunteer management and those who want an opportunity to sit back and look at the big picture. Directory for Social Change North (0151 708 0117)

## Wednesday 24

### Wigan Cycle Forum

European/Commonwealth Suite, Robin Park Arena, Loire Drive, Wigan. Wigan Council's forum for discussing cycling in the borough. Info: Damien Garner (d.garner@wiganmbc.gov.uk)

## Wednesday 24 & Thursday 25

### Train the Trainer

From £155. For the trainer who has experience in delivering training and is now ready to enhance and develop further skills and knowledge of training techniques. Bookings: Directory for Social Change North (0151 708 0117)

## Thursday 25 Sept

### A Creative Approach to Environmental Education

From £100+VAT voluntary orgs. 10am-4.30pm, YHA Manchester. Combining environmental discovery with creativity, this event includes a range of innovative practical activities to enrich your education sessions, reinforce your message, and use simple (craft based) ways to encourage the groups you work with to find a new understanding of the world around them. Bookings: Pat or Helen, Environmental Trainers Network (0121 358 2155)

## Saturday 27

### World Day of Protest Against the Occupations of Iraq and Palestine

London, transport from Manchester. National demo called by organisations in the US, Japan, Germany, Korea and Britain. Info: Manchester Stop the War Coalition (07760 224580, info@manchestersopthewar.org)

### DIY at UEW

11am-3pm, United Estates of Wythenshawe, Broadoak Road. The Copperdale Trust, established in 1977, run a 12 bedroom homeless hostel for young single adults, with two "move on" flats for those looking to gain more independence. The United Estates of Wythenshawe is an activity centre that offers a health and fitness centre for all ages and all abilities, family support, credit union and a community shop with furniture recycling. Fareshare is their food distribution scheme, which gives homeless people access to a healthier diet. There will be painting and decorating jobs and also some gardening jobs depending on the weather. Info: GO Manchester (833 0245, gomanchester@csv.org.uk)

## Sunday 28

### Rite2No

1-5pm, Wythenshawe Park. Event to raise awareness of the seriousness of climate change. People attending the event will have the opportunity to find out, in detail, about the causes, effects and the solutions to climate change. Workshops run by professional experts will be taking place around the site, as well as a speak-out which will take place where people can fire questions at experts to see what they have to say on the matter. A fun learning day suitable for all ages. Info: Phillip Sherwood, Rite2No (2254294, phillipsherwood9000@hotmail.com) or Emma Yates, Rite2no (9453798, emmayates925@hotmail.com)

# October

## Wednesday 1

### UN International Day for Older Persons

### World Vegetarian Day

### The Integrate Project – Where is it Up To?

5:30pm, lecture room G33, Architecture & Planning Building, University of Manchester, Oxford Road. Discussion with Bill Tyson of the GMPTC. Info: (David.Ling@umist.ac.uk)

### Sustainable Neighbourhoods

5-6:30pm, VAM, North Square, 11-13 Spear Street M1. (See 20 August). Info: Clare, Community Network for Manchester (2379309)

## Thursday 2 – Sunday 12

### National Organic Week

Info: 0117 987 4582

## Thursday 2

### World Farm Animals Day

### Jewish Peace Groups

7pm, Cheadle Info: Jews for Justice for Palestinians (07760 127809, just\_peace\_now@hotmail.com)

## Saturday 4 – Sunday 12

### Waters North West

Water-related events for Mersey Basin Week. See page 4. Info: Bev Mitchell, Mersey Basin Campaign (242 8212)

## Saturday 4 – Friday 10

### UN World Space Week

## Saturday 4 – Saturday 11

### Keep Space for Peace Week

International days of protest to stop the militarisation of space

## Saturday 4

### Second Manchester People's Assembly

Venue TBA. Campaigns networking conference. Info: Manchester Stop the War (07986 305 320)

## Sunday 5

### Day for Tibet

Annual event to hold sponsored activities and raise awareness and funds for Free Tibet Campaign and raise awareness of the Tibetans' plight. Info: Free Tibet Campaign (020 7833 9958)

## Monday 6 – Friday 10

### Walk to School Week

<http://www.walktoschool.org.uk/site.htm>

## Monday 6

### World Habitat Day: Water & Sanitation for Cities

Celebrated annually on first Monday in October. This year, the global observance will be held Rio de Janeiro & focus on the theme of Water and Sanitation for Cities to highlight the world's urban water and sanitation crisis.

## Tuesday 7 & Wednesday 8

### Group Facilitation Methods

From £175 (bursaries available). Structured introduction to the basic conversation and workshop methods of ICA's Technology of Participation. Info: ICA:UK (0845 450 0305)

## Tuesday 7

### Sustainable Development: Who Cares?

The Lowry, Salford Quays. A lecture by Jonathon Porritt, chair of the UK Sustainable Development Commission. Part of Mersey Basin Week. Info: Julie Mullen, Mersey Basin Campaign (242 8205)

## Wednesday 8

### UN International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction

### International Walk to School Day

Giving children, parents, school teachers and community leaders an opportunity to be part of a global event as they celebrate the many benefits of walking. Last year nearly 3 million walkers from 28 countries walked to school together.

# REGULARS

## ACTIVITIES

## MEETINGS

**Anti-War:** (by area then by day): *Manchester* – 1pm, every Sat, vigil/leafletting outside Tesco, Market St; 1-2pm, every Weds, vigil outside St Peter's Chaplaincy, Oxford Rd (Salford CND, 01942 894 862); 5:30pm, every Fri roadside vigils in Chorlton & Whalley Range; *Bolton* – peace vigil, 2nd Thurs of month, 6-6:30pm and 4th Thurs of month, 12-12:30pm, both at Town Hall Squ (Bolton Quakers, wkcd20932@aol.com); *Oldham* – protest every Thurs, 4-6pm, "Peace Island" at junction of Rochdale Road & West Street; *Rochdale* – 6-7pm every Thurs, vigil, Rochdale Town Hall; 11:30am-1:30pm, every Sat, stall outside McDonalds, Drake Street; *Salford* – every Fri, vigil at Salford Cathedral; *Stockport* – Tues & Thurs, 5:15-6:30pm, vigil outside Art Gallery, Wellington Rd; Sats, stall, Market Street, Marple; *Tameside* – 5-6pm, every Fri, vigil, traffic island, top Mossley; *Trafford* – 5:30pm, every Fri, vigil, junction of Chester Rd & Edge Lane, Stretford

**British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV):** Manchester midweek group does lots of practical activities on every Tues, Weds and Thurs. Meet 9:30am outside Chorlton St bus station. Info: 608 0498, 07740 899 539

**Cycle Rides:** "Dawdling Doctors" (Rob, 224 1303) cycle rides Suns each month (Aug 3 & 24; Sep 7 & 21; Oct 5 & 19). CTC South Manchester (<http://www.smctc.org.uk>) also have runs

**Farmers' Market:** Opportunity to buy local products. 9am-4pm, 2nd Sat of month, Market St/Tib St. Info: 234 7356

**Greater Manchester Cares:** Regular volunteering opportunities from turning print into Braille and improving footpaths to taking less able-bodied people shopping and helping out teachers. Info: Janice Watson on 245 2575 or Karen on 245 2631, email: [greatermanchester@bitc.org.uk](mailto:greatermanchester@bitc.org.uk)

**Hunt Sabs:** with NW Hunt Sabs Assoc., every Saturday. Info: 07961 113084 or [info@nwhsa.org.uk](mailto:info@nwhsa.org.uk)

**Palestinian Support:** every saturday to leaflet outside Marks and Spencers in Bolton (Superdrug end) 1-3pm. Info: Bolton Palestinian Support Group (07985 238 844)

**People's Kitchen:** vegan community meals, 7pm, every Tuesday, Afe We (formerly the Grants Arms), Royce Road, Hulme.

**Tools for Self Reliance (Didsbury):** 1st Mon even & 3rd afternoon of month. (Tool refurbishment)

**Treesponsibility:** Planting and looking after trees in Calderdale. Info: 01422 843 222

**Victoria Baths Open Days:** first Sun of month, 12-3pm, Chorlton on Medlock. Info: Friends of Victoria Baths (224 2020, [victoriabaths@aol.com](mailto:victoriabaths@aol.com))

**Vigils for the Disappeared:** every Sat, 1pm, steps of Victoria monument, Piccadilly Gardens. Organised by Marxist-Leninist Front

**Walks:** Saturdays and Sundays, occasionally mid-week. Info: Stockport Ramblers (Terry Barnes 477 5803, Phil Featherstone 485 3159 or Irene Lamb 429 0186) <http://www.stockportramblers.org.uk>

**Africa Forum:** University wide network which promotes interdisciplinary collaboration in research and teaching on, in and about Africa. Seminars, 2nd Monday of month, 1-2pm, Room 3.51a, Williamson Building, Oxford Road. Info: 275 3990, [msrdsmsg@fs1.ec.man.ac.uk](mailto:msrdsmsg@fs1.ec.man.ac.uk)

Manchester **Amnesty International:** 1st Weds of month, 7:30pm, Cross Street Chapel, Cross Street. Info: 962 2012.

**Anarchist and Libertarian Communist:** discussion evenings, 3rd Wednesday of month, 7:30pm, "Vine" pub, Kennedy Street.

**Anarchist Federation** every fortnight, various venues. Info: [anarchist\\_federation@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:anarchist_federation@yahoo.co.uk)

Manchester **Anarchist Youth**, 3pm, Cafe Pop every 2nd Sunday and then onto "Sinclairs" public house, Exchange Square. Info: 07816 420 391

Manchester **Animal Protection:** meetings 1st Weds of month, 7:30pm upstairs, "Town Hall Tavern" public house, Tib Lane. Info: 0845 456 2492, [info@mapsoc.org.uk](mailto:info@mapsoc.org.uk)

**Asian Women's Project:** see "Women's Groups"

**Asylum Seekers Solidarity Socials:** first Saturday of month, 1-4pm, Cross Street Chapel, Manchester. Info: Manchester Committee to Defend Asylum Seekers (740 8206, [ncadc-nw@ncadc.org.uk](mailto:ncadc-nw@ncadc.org.uk))

**Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND)** *Bolton:* 2nd Thurs of month, 7:30pm, Friends Meeting House, Silverwell Street. Info: Malcolm Pittock (01204 522 839, [cnd@bolton.tc](mailto:cnd@bolton.tc)) *Bury:* Cath (959 3191). *Manchester:* 2nd Weds of month, Friends Meeting House, Mount St. Info: John Cutts (494 8468) *Marple:* 2nd Weds of month, 8pm, Friends Meeting House, 79 Church Lane, Marple. *Prestwich & Whitefield:* 1st Thurs of month, 7:30pm. Info: Betty Tebbs (766 9769). *Rochdale:* 1st Tues of month. Info: Rae (01706 378 043) or Pat (01706 370117). *Salford:* 3rd Weds of month, Broad Walk library. Info Barry Woodling (793 5122)

Greater Manchester **Coalition Against Sanctions and War on Iraq:** 3rd Weds of month, 7:30pm, Friends Meeting House, Mount St.

Manchester **Committee for Peace in the Balkans:** 1st Mond of month, 7:30pm, Friends Meeting House, Mount St.

Sale & Altrincham **Conservation Volunteers:** 2nd/3rd Mon of month. Details from Shelagh on 860 6910(h) or 275 3146(w) or John Ross on 928 9927.

Stockport **Conservation Group:** Volunteers wanted for regular practical conservation tasks, usually on a Sunday. No experience needed. Info: Brian Evans on 01663 744 322

**Cuba Solidarity Campaign:** 7:30pm, 1st Monday of month (not Aug), upstairs room of the "Hare and Hounds" pub. Info: Mark Burton (881 6887) or Alan Neill (226 3688).

Greater Manchester **Cycling Campaign**, 2nd Monday of month, 7:30pm, Friends Meeting House, 6 Mount Street. Info: 224 3843, [membership@gmcc.org.uk](mailto:membership@gmcc.org.uk)

Manchester **Earth First!**: 7:30pm, 2nd and 4th Weds, changing venues – ring for info. Info: 226 6814, [mancef@nemafode.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:mancef@nemafode.freeserve.co.uk)

**Eve's Back:** see "Women's Groups"

**Financial Management Advice:** Free surgeries aimed at helping voluntary groups manage their finances. Last Thurs of month (not Dec 2003), 1 hour slots between 10am and 3pm. Bookings: Community Accountancy Service (953 4053)

**Friends of the Earth:** *Manchester:* 2nd Tues of month, 7pm, Friends Meeting House, 6 Mount Street. Info: 834 8221, office@manchesterfoe.org.uk *Oldham:* 2nd Tuesday of month, 7pm, Oldham One World Centre, King Street, Oldham. Info: Andrew Shaw (01706 844 199)

**Friends of Victoria Baths:** first Monday of month, 7:30pm, Studio 21, Imex Business Park, Hamilton Road, Longsight. Info: Gill Wright (224 8437).

**Green Party:** *Manchester:* third Thursday of month, 7:30pm various locations. Venue details: Vanessa (227 9014); *Greater Manchester:* discussion evenings, first Tuesday of the month 8pm, "The Old Monkey" public house, Princess Street. Info: Graeme (01204 853955)

**Greenpeace Eccles & Salford** 1st & 3rd Mon of month, "Royal Oak" pub, corner of Corporation Street and Barton Lane, Eccles. Info: Mark Charnley (789 5016); *Manchester & Stockport* 2nd Tues of month, 8pm, "Crown" pub, Heaton Lane. Info: Sharon Whigham (494 7272)

**Greater Manchester Humanist Group:** 2nd Weds of month, 7:30pm, Friends Meeting House, Mount St.

**Libertarian Socialist discussion Group:** third Tuesday of month, 8pm, "Hare and Hounds" pub, Shude Hill. Info: Martin (707 9652)

**Manchester Light Rail Transit Assoc:** last Thurs of month, 7:30pm, Friends Meeting House, Mount St. Info: Tony Williams (962 1979)

**Manchester Wildlife:** 3rd Tues of month, 7:30pm, "The Old Monkey", Portland St.

**Mothers Against Violence:** last Wednesday of month, 6:30pm, Moss Side Leisure Centre, Moss Lane East. Info: 266 1209

**Manchester National Civil Rights Movement:** every second Tuesday evening, Kath Locke Centre, Moss Side. Info: 07957 777 372, 256 1401 or 248 5190

**Manchester Organic Gardeners:** 1st or 2nd Saturday of month (Sept-June), 2-4pm, St Elizabeth's Church Hall, Lomond Road, Peel Hall, Manchester. Info: Jane Barkess (01706 211 377, email: jane@lowerclowes.org.uk)

**Oxfam:** For information about campaigning with Oxfam please contact Oxfam North West Campaigns Office 838 5618 or email kmcdermott@oxfam.org.uk

**Manchester Peace Council:** 4th Thursday of month, 7pm, Friends Meeting House, Mount St. Info: Duncan Healey (01457 835 623)

**Manchester Peace Group:** 2nd Tuesday of the month, 7:15pm, Friends Meeting House, 6 Mount Street M2 5NS.

**Manchester Palestinian Solidarity Campaign:** 1st Weds of month, 7pm, Friends Meeting House, Mount St

**People & Planet:** Thursdays, 5pm, Manchester University Students Union, Oxford Road.

**Saddleworth Peace Movement:** 4th Tues of month, 8pm, "White Lion" pub, Delph. Info: Steve Roman (01457 876 013)

**South Manchester Socialist Alliance:** every 2nd Weds of each month, 7.30pm, Withington community centre, Burton Road, Withington. Info: Denise (07801 549 285)

**The Socialist Party (Manchester Branch),** two Mondays a month, 8pm, "Hare and Hounds" pub, Shudehill. Info: Paul (860 7189)

**Socialist Party (Manchester):** every Tues, 7:30pm, downstairs at "The Vine" pub, Kennedy Street (no smoking/ no alcohol during meeting). Info: Hugh (248 0027)

**Manchester Solidarity Federation:** 1st Weds of month, 8:30pm, "The Brow House", 1 Mabfield Road, Fallowfield. Info: 232 7889

**Stop the War: GM Coalition,** organising committee: every Tuesday, 7pm Muslim Assoc. 272 Dickenson Rd, Longsight. Info: CND (0161 273 8283); *Bolton Stop the War Meeting:* every Thursday, 7:30-9pm:00, Friends Meeting House, Silverwell Street; *Manchester Labour against the war:* for Labour Party members, every Thursday, 6:15pm, Members Room, Manchester Town Hall; *Oldham Stop the War Coalition:* third Tues of month, 7:30pm, One world Centre Connaught St, off King Street, Oldham; *Rochdale:* 8pm, Mondays. Ring 01706 378 043 for venue

**Greater Manchester Transport Consultative Committee (GMTCC)** 5:30pm, second Weds by-monthly (10 Sept, 12 Nov (AGM)), Conference Hall, Town Hall. Bus subcommittee: 5pm, last Mon of month (29 Sept, 27 Oct), Comm Room 4, Town Hall. Rail subcommittee: 5:45pm, 3rd Thurs every other month (18 Sept, 20 Nov), Committee Room 4, Town Hall. Disability/Access subcommittee: 5pm, various Mondays 1 Sept (Comm Room 1), 6 Oct (Comm Room 4), 3 Nov (Comm Room 4), Town Hall. Info: Transport Resource Unit (277 1013)

**ManVeg (Manchester Vegetarians & Vegans):** 2nd Thurs of month, 8:30pm "Square Albert" pub, Albert Square. Free veggie food. Info: Brian Rogers (01565 750 314)

**North West Waste Forum:** last Tues of every second month, various venues. Info: Lucy (lucy@emergemanchester.co.uk)

**Women's Groups:** *Asian Women's Project* every Mon, 2-4pm, Kath Locke centre, 123 Moss Lane East, Hulme. Info: 455 0277; *Eve's Back* (Manchester Women's Networking Magazine) every 1st & 3rd Weds, 7pm, Pankhurst Centre, 60-62 Nelson St. Info: 225 6095, evesback@yahoo.com; *Manchester Women's Drop In & Advice* every Thurs, 11am-2pm, Pankhurst Centre, 60 Nelson Street. Info: Pankhurst Centre (273 5673); *South Manchester Women's Group:* fortnightly on Weds. Info: Linda Pepper (861 0789)

**Oldham Women Against Racism:** 2nd and 4th Thurs of month, Werneth & Freehold Community Development Project, 14 Tamworth St, Werneth, Oldham. Info: 627 0925.

**Youth Support:** every Weds, 6-7:30pm, Booth Centre, Manchester Cathedral. Info: 225 1064 (Pauline or Sam)

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

# Climate Candour

*Mike Koefman, secretary, Campaign for a Hydrogen Economy reports on a remarkable seminar from a remarkable man: Bob Watson who was at UMIST to receive an honorary doctor of science degree in recognition of his pivotal role in alerting the world to the dangers of climate change*

The 200 Mancunians who crammed room C16 in UMIST's Renold Building on Friday 11 July, drawn by the reputation of Bob Watson – ace climatologist, behind-the-scenes mover and shaker, Bush-ite dismissee – were not to be disappointed. In a planet-ranging 65 minute exposition of the climate woes assailing us he laid bare the the main underlying causative forces in a lecture aptly titled "The Science and Politics of Climate Change".

This Norwich-born, London educated, US resident, whose chairmanship of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change was terminated ("Exxonated") in 2001 by one George W Bush, took the audience through accumulating evidence for the climate change which has already occurred over the past 25 years.

He did not stop there. With widely garnered research findings and plentiful illustrations to hand, he showed how the planet, with all its plants and creatures, is now under direct threat if we do not rein in our consumption of fossil fuels. This exposition was no mere tirade from an angry and disempowered prophet. It was a masterpiece of point by point elucidation of each problem and each effect. And it hinted at hope for the future – if we act fast.

Of all the long term effects predicted by Dr Watson and his fellow workers, perhaps four stood out most starkly: a global warming pattern has already become so established that even a sharp diminution in fossil fuel burn within the next 25 years will not prevent a rise in temperature and sea levels which will continue for 400

years; uneven warming will raise polar temperatures by 6-12 degrees C, enough to institute a whole new geological era; Africa will become even drier and hotter, with dire effects upon already stressed populations; and an ultimate indirect effect could be the weakening of the Gulf Stream, thus provoking, paradoxically, a dangerous cooling of Europe's climate.

Dr Watson's remedies? An informed electorate, intelligently concerted international action, relevant & well funded research and development, the empowerment of women everywhere, and the treatment of the whole climate threat within a framework of human development. Although Dr Watson's advisory role at the World Bank and his belief in market mechanisms may upset many readers, his analysis and message was almost beyond challenge.

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## Manchester's West Bank Wall

*...continued from page 1*

A rally was held in front of the wall before it was eventually demolished by the protestors to provide a visual representation of what needs to be done with the real West Bank Wall.

In an impressive feat of cooperation, the event was organised by an independent group of Manchester-based activists, many of whom have spent time in Palestine with the International Solidarity Movement (ISM) and other peaceful organisations. The demonstration was supported by a wide range of organisations including Greater Manchester & District CND, Jews for Justice for Palestinians, Greater



Manchester Stop The War Coalition, Palestine Solidarity Campaign, Muslim Feminist Network, Islamic Society, Muslim Association of Britain and others.

*Jews for Justice for Palestinians (just\_peace\_now@hotmail.com)  
<http://www.jjfp.org>*

*Chris Edwards, One World TV (drcce2002@yahoo.com)  
<http://tv.oneworld.net/tapestry?story=764&window=full>*

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# RESOURCES

## Community Cohesion Agency

The Community Cohesion Agency hopes to help create an Oldham where everybody can feel comfortable moving to different areas of the borough, and live harmoniously together, regardless of their age, race, gender, ethnicity or religion. They have Bangla, Urdu and Punjabi speakers in their team.

The agency can help if you are thinking of moving to a new area and there are areas you will not consider because people from your community don't normally go there. They can help you get to know a new area, whether you are still thinking about where to apply for, have got an offer for a house but are not comfortable with the area, or if you have moved but are not feeling very settled.

The agency's support workers can introduce you to local people, local community groups and services and activities that you and your family could join in with. They can even come along with you to these activities if you don't know any of the other people there.

In partnership with various voluntary and community groups, the Community Cohesion Agency runs activities that aim to bring people from different communities together, such as trips to theatres and festivals, inter-community football tournaments, dance, henna painting, fun days etc. If they don't run themselves ourselves, they can put you in touch with someone who does!

*Community Cohesion Agency (0161 6202992)*

## Sustainability is Charitable

The Charity Commission now recognises the promotion of sustainable development as a charitable purpose so groups campaigning in this area can now apply for charitable status. Previously, only providing information in this area was considered charitable.

*Charity Commission (0151 703 1786)*

## Send us your News!

Articles for the next newsletter should be sent by Monday 22 September to 6 Mount Street, Manchester M2 5NS, email them as plain text to [info@networkingnewsletter.org.uk](mailto:info@networkingnewsletter.org.uk) or fax 0161 834 5797 (marked FAO: Networking Newsletter). Articles should be 50-250 words long, preferably with a picture or other graphic, and include your full contact details. Please send us high resolution images (250DPI, full colour and not compressed if a JPEG) so we can use them in the printed newsletter.

## The Web of all Resources

For the 3rd issue running, we've run out of space to include the usual comprehensive list of resources. This issue we have also had to dramatically reduce some of the descriptions of the events (p7-11) and restrict it to just over 2 months. However, all this – and more – can be found on the *Networking Newsletter* web site at

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

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# Food for Thought

"Ashamed of your mobile?", asks Paul Merton's overpaid voiceover on the Phones 4U advert. Read on, and you may well find you have good reason to be.

Mobile phones are directly responsible for the biggest war in African history, destroying World Heritage site rainforests and driving rare gorillas to extinction. In our consumer society, we don't often consider the full history of the things we consume. It feels like stuff just appears in shops, then it disappears when we put it in a bin. This effect is magnified when we buy something with no idea what it's even made from. The stuff we're craving most these days is consumer electronic goods: Playstations, DVDs, PCs, mobile phones and the like. Because these gadgets are dinky and lightweight, it might seem like they're not resource-intensive to make. In fact, making them lightweight has given new problems for engineers. Fortunately, there's a substance called tantalum – a refined metal that stays stable at very high temperatures, it's the only thing capable of making such tiny electronic processing chips work so well. It's in everything that has a small processing chip & by far the biggest user is mobile phones.

Tantalum is not only essential for all processor products, it is also unrecyclable. All these amazing gadgets from MP3 players to heart monitors, from in-car GPSs to automatic shop doors, they all use tantalum, and yet it is running out at an ever-increasing rate. We sometimes wonder what the best computers will be like in a hundred years time. The answer may well be "about 40 years old". Tantalum is refined from an ore called columbite-tantalite, or coltan for short. Coltan is only found in few places on earth. By far the largest amount, some 80% of the world's reserves, is in central Africa. Some 80% of that - two thirds of all the coltan on earth - is in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The DRC is a massive country straddling the equator with vast rainforests, home to a range of diverse and rare wildlife. The forests in the east of the DRC are the last home of the Eastern Lowland gorilla. These forests have been declared National Parks and UN World Heritage sites on account of their amazing and precious ecology. They are also right on top of all that coltan. Thousands of people have moved into the National Parks and have dug out the riverbeds, panning for coltan. This has poisoned the waterways on which much of the wildlife depends. Such huge numbers of new human residents also need food, and with few other sources many supposedly protected animals - including the eastern lowland gorillas - are being killed for meat. Five years ago there were around 8,000 of the gorillas in the wild. Since the war and coltan mining, there are around 500, and the numbers are falling.

Coltan mining in National Parks is completely illegal, of course. Which not only means it is working outside of environmental considerations, but outside of human rights and safety considerations. In February 2002, 36 miners were killed when a shoddily excavated riverbank collapsed on them. The illegality of the mining has allowed the controlling militias to use child labour and forced labour, and turn to other illegal trades, such as ivory. In the Kahuzi-Biega National Park all but two of the 350 elephant

families disappeared in three years. Two tons of tusks were traced to the area in late 2000. Around a third of children in eastern DRC have abandoned education in order to mine for coltan. And you can hardly blame them. If vast reserves of diamonds were found a few inches under the North Yorkshire moors, how many of us would still respect the National Park? The blame for this has to rest primarily on the shoulders of those who make coltan so valuable, and that's the people who buy it. That's us.

And whilst the miners get more than they would at any other trade available to them, the real money is made by those who trade in coltan. The traders have to be people of real power: nearer the consumers, that's wealthy Western corporations. At the mining end of the chain, military leaders from DRC have been running the trading. Huge parts of eastern DRC have been invaded by Ugandan and Rwandan militias, who then take the coltan out and sell it from their own countries. The war that started 10 years ago in Rwanda has never stopped in central Africa. Indeed, it has expanded, drawing in troops from at least 10 countries. It has left millions of people dead. Its effect on Africa is akin to that of the First World War on Europe. And it has been intensified, prolonged and largely funded by money Westerners have paid for Congolese coltan. The UN described coltan trading as "the engine of the war", confirming that all parties are using coltan as their funding source.

The World Bank has praised Uganda for the way its economy is doing well under WB advice. But the revived Ugandan economy is based entirely on stolen minerals from the DRC. Since its troops went into DRC in 1998, Uganda has suddenly started exporting phenomenal quantities of gold and diamonds. In the year after Uganda invaded the DRC, "Ugandan" coltan production went up 2,800%. Much of this money was swiftly converted into weapons for what was still inaccurately called the "civil war" in DRC. Our desire to play make believe wars on Playstations was deepening the real war in central Africa.

As concerned westerners began to understand this, the hi-tech companies were quick to distance themselves. Ericsson, Intel, Nokia, Motorola, they all assured us they never used tantalum made from traders selling Congolese coltan. Given that their suppliers are a bunch of warlords and their friends, how could they trust their assurances? Outi Mikkonen, communications manager for environmental affairs at Nokia said, "all you can do is ask, and if they say no, we believe it". No further checks were made. The chain of supply is so convoluted that no electronics buyer can ever be sure of where the raw coltan came from. Each shipment can have a dozen or more intermediary owners between the mine and the consumer. One of the major tantalum refiners is German company H C Starck, who also assured us "H C Starck is not being supplied with material from the crisis areas of central Africa". They get their raw coltan from a number of sources, including the British-based A&M Minerals & Metals, who said "it would be silly for us to try to pretend that we know the origin". They did say, however, that they buy their coltan in Uganda.

*Continued on page 6*

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