

NETWORKING NEWSLETTER

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Laboured Relations at Spring Conference

The Labour Party came to Manchester for their Spring Conference over the weekend of 12-14 March. We report on the many different activities that surrounded the conference.

No More War

A paranoid police force; a Prime Minister who didn't mention the word "Iraq" once publicly; a huge effigy of the Bliar heaved through the streets of Manchester by 2000 anti-war demonstrators – that was the Labour Party's spring conference in Manchester. Behind one million pounds of security, Tony Blair demonstrated his state of denial. Not once did he mention Iraq in his whole speech. The biggest crisis of 50 years, he does a Basil Fawty: "Don't mention the war".

Following the horrific bombings in Madrid it was vital that the anti-war voice was seen and heard. Our argument that Bush and Blair's war on terror would bring more terrorism had been brutally confirmed. The response of Blair, Blunkett and Straw? To ratchet up the attacks on civil liberties which will only further increase the cycle of violence and put our Muslim communities under further fear and subject them to even greater harassment.

However, the Spanish electorate demonstrated that our arguments, those of the global anti-war movement,



David Shayler joins thousands on an anti-war march

whether here or abroad are those of the majority. A wholesale rejection of the warmongers. Anzar gone, Blair and Bush to follow. Spanish troops to be withdrawn from Iraq. Our responsibility is to achieve the same.

More reports on various events follow on page 2...

**Pull
your
head
out!**



See page 7 to find out more...



Nine Ladies in Winter 2004. But what will it look like next Winter? It's not too late to stop the plans for a quarry on this site. Turn to page 4 for the latest news.

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Greater Manchester's Guide to Green, Peace, Human, Animal and Debt Campaigning

Laboured Relations at Spring Conference



The Trials of Tony Blair

On the Friday evening of the Labour Party's spring conference in Manchester (see p1), a trial was held of the Prime Minister for high crimes and misdemeanours, for breaches of international law, attacks on civil liberties and for using Words of Mass Deception. Putting the case for the prosecution were Lindsey German (convenor of Stop the War Coalition), David Shayler (ex-MI5 operative and whistleblower) and Chris Coverdale (Legal Action Against War). Not surprisingly the case for the defence was weak, well non-existent, and "guilty as charged" was the verdict read out before the massed crowds and television cameras.

Time for the Truth

On the Saturday, a march was held from All Saints Park to the conference at GMEX. A couple of thousand turned

up to make their voices heard and to topple an out-sized model of a Pinocchio-nosed Tony Blair. In the evening Patricia Hewitt faced her own jury debating whether there is the political will to cancel the Third World Debt (see article below).



Many other "fringe" events went on including the publication and distribution of 10,000 copies of a spoof newsletter announcing an Anti-Social Behaviour Order placed on Tony Blair banning him from the city centre for threatening behaviour and actual bodily harm and satirising the government's increasingly desperate attempts to manipulate the media, highlighting the hysteria that has been whipped up over issues like asylum seekers, the war in Iraq and tuition fees. Elsewhere, three "dunces" (see photo) held a stunt which echoed Mao's persecution and humiliation of dissidents during China's

cultural revolution, a tongue-in-cheek "March For Capitalism", anti-climate change street theatre complete with Ark, and the superheros from Fathers 4 Justice also made an appearance.

All in all a noisy conference... well outside GMEX anyhow!

Based on contributions from:

Richard Searle, The Greater Manchester Coalition to Stop the War (07760 224 580, ANSWERmanchester@aol.com)

UHC Collective
(mail@uhc-collective.org.uk)
<http://www.uhc-collective.org.uk>

IndyMedia
www.indymedia.org.uk/en/regions/manchester

Fathers 4 Justice
<http://www.fathers-4-justice.org>



Government Called to Account

In a fringe meeting, 150 Trade Justice Movement activists put the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, Patricia Hewitt, in the hot seat for a debate about global justice & the UK's role in Third World poverty reduction. The debate, organised by Dave Pearce of the local World Development Movement, included MPs Gareth Thomas and Michael Wills. GMR's Allan Beswick chaired the event, reflecting his personal concern for correcting injustice wherever it oppresses people.

Dave was clear on his reasons: "The international community have made promises to halve poverty by 2015. Yet politicians fail to match their rhetoric with actions – it's just not good enough!" Allan Beswick asked, "Is there the political will for justice in trade and debt?" Patricia Hewitt replied: "The will is there in our government". Given developing countries lose a massive

\$700bn per year due to unjust trade barriers implemented by countries like the UK, it is no surprise the Minister's response was greeted with cynicism. Indeed her colleague Michael Wills, who resigned from government last year to campaign against the Common Agricultural Policy, said that to be honest the answer was "No"!

Edward Egan, of the Christian Brothers in Gorton, raised the issue of the debt dependency, led by the USA which is hoovering up money from the poorest to finance their "spend now" feel-good boom. He pointed out implications for people in Manchester as well as the developing world, and Ann Pettifor of the New Economics Foundation endorsed his comments.

When an MP suggested campaigning had waned, Marion Heyes from Wythenshawe dealt the blow: "We're still campaigning and we're going to



The panel: Dave Pearce, Allan Beswick, Patricia Hewitt MP, Gareth Thomas MP, Ann Pettifor, Prof. Uwem Ite.

keep on. So why don't you lot match us and we can get things done!" The panel were unanimous in congratulating the activists for their commitment to helping those thousands of miles away. But with a child dying from poverty every few seconds, there is still a long way to go. What is clear is that the voices of Manchester were heard and will be remembered.

Manchester Trade Justice Movement
(0161 273 3647,
news@tjm-manchester.org.uk)
<http://www.tjm-manchester.org.uk>

Store Stops Fur on Threat of National Protests

Department store Harvey Nichols has decided to end its sale of real fur just days ahead of a National Day of Action against the company.

Harvey Nichols had been selling rabbit fur garments in its stores despite complaints from customers. In October, the Coalition to Abolish the Fur Trade (CAFT) launched a campaign which has seen weekly protests at the company's stores.

CAFT had planned to organise protests outside all Harvey Nichols stores (Manchester, London, Birmingham, Leeds and Edinburgh) on Saturday 20 March. They rang Harvey Nichols the preceding Tuesday to inform them of the planned nationwide actions and to ask if the company wanted to reconsider their sale of fur. An hour later they phoned back to say their Board of Directors had discussed the issue and the company agreed to end its sale of real fur. Company Secretary Clive Morton wrote to CAFT: "The Board has today reviewed the Company's fur policy and has decided going forward that we will no longer stock real fur items."

Most high street companies have refused to sell real fur for years, knowing that their customers oppose the killing of animals for their fur. In recent months CAFT has persuaded companies such as Zara, Emma Somerset, Schuh and Aldo to stop selling real fur, and Aldo has now agreed to go fur-free in all their stores worldwide. CAFT is currently in discussions with other retailers over the introduction of fur-free policies.

The use of real fur is unpopular amongst the British public who recognise the cruelty inherent in the fur trade, and fur farming is now banned in the UK. Some companies are selling rabbit fur, often misleadingly described as a "by-product" of the meat trade. Commercial rabbit farms cage rabbits in bare wire cages, restricting movement and preventing natural behaviours.

Some rabbits are bred solely for their fur and those farmers who breed rabbits primarily for their meat also sell the fur to make the business profitable. CAFT is also concerned that the sale of rabbit fur promotes the use of all fur.



Earlier protests outside the Manchester Harvey Nichols store

A CAFT spokesperson said: "We are pleased that Harvey Nichols has added its name to the long list of high street companies who refuse to sell real fur. The fur trade is responsible for the deaths of millions of animals - real fur is not glamorous, not fashionable and not wanted. The fur trade may like to claim that 'fur is back' but the public are aware of the horror animals go through and refuse to be part of that cruelty."

*Coalition to Abolish the Fur Trade
(07761 533 152, caft@caft.org.uk)
<http://www.caft.org.uk>*

Thought for the Day

If every driver took one fewer car journey a week averaging nine miles, it would cut carbon dioxide emissions (the main greenhouse gas causing climate change) from traffic by 13%.

*"Your Environment", Issue 2,
Environment Agency Winter 2004*

Labour Relations at Spring Conference



More photos from events around the Labour Conference (see p1-2). Photos: BBC, Graeme S, IndyMedia & Richard S



Nine Ladies Appealing

Light is still at the end of the tunnel for campaigners to save the Nine Ladies and Stanton Moor, Derbyshire (see #51) from a planned quarry. But it is a dim light. Firstly, evictions of activists in tree tops and elsewhere on site may be happening as you read this. However, an appeal is lodged with the High Court where the decision will be made about whether the quarry is dormant or active. If it is dormant, it seems Stancliffe Stone will not be able to quarry despite having the rights foolishly granted them as part of the war effort. Furthermore, the quarry company are requesting to put off a meeting with the Peak District National Parks Authority to assess the working conditions for the quarry until June. Why they would want to do so seems unclear but perhaps it's in order to carry out an eviction first. Finally, the word on the grapevine is that the eviction team is moving across the country. St Davids Woods, Blackwood, Cardiff was evicted on 23 March (albeit an illegal eviction since the issue was still going through the courts and there was protected wildlife on the site). People believe that the same Costain bailiff crew will move to Sherwood and then onto Nine Ladies.

The appeal does not protect the protest camp and the postponed site visit may mean nothing but it's important people go to show their support and try to oppose the eviction in the hope that the appeal is won before any quarrying commences. For directions see <http://www.nineladies.uklinux.net/get2site.php>

Site mobile (SMS only):

For all breaking news:

www.networkingnewsletter.org.uk/stop_press.shtml

Free Veggie Food

March was "veggie month" and Manchester Animal Protection held a food fayre with over 200 people visiting on the day. The majority were meat/fish eaters curious to find out more about vegetarian and vegan diets and to sample some meat-free and dairy-free food. There were also a number of committed vegetarians interested in taking the extra step of giving up dairy products and eggs, because of the inherent cruelty in the dairy and egg production industries.



Manchester Friends of the Earth, dressed as carrots, launch their online guide to real food. <http://www.realfoodguide.org.uk>

There was a wide variety of salads, sprouted seeds, fried tofu, "sausage" rolls and savouries, curries and hot pot, and a whole range of meat and cheese alternatives. For pudding people could choose from cakes, scones, "cheese" cake, chocolate, custard, cream and ice cream – all dairy free. The Globe, Unicorn Grocery, Forest Foods, Earth Café & Beanies Wholefoods all contributed food.

Feedback from the public was very positive, everyone enjoyed themselves, especially the food, with many pleasantly surprised that veggie/vegan food could be so tasty. Many visitors said they were keen to try and change their eating habits and adopt a cruelty-free lifestyle, which was MAP's main intention – to educate and encourage, showing that veggie/vegan food can be exciting and nutritious. MAP's next food event will be for Vegan Day in November.

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

NW Vegan Festival

Don't forget the North West's first vegan festival on Sat 8 May! It's free and in the Sacha's Hotel, Tib Street (see p9)

Vegan Organic Trust

The Vegan Organic Trust (VOT), formerly Vegan Organic Horticultural Agricultural Network (VOHAN), holds regular meetings in Manchester including fun gatherings with great nosh at The Globe, a vegan pub, in Glossop. Based in Manchester, VOT is an international organisation helping to arrange support and visits to farmers wishing to know more about the methods they promote.

VOT is in the process of registering the first ever Stockfree Organic Standards with the Soil Association which will be a clear definition of vegan organic cultivation. This will enable commercial growers to apply for certification as approved producers.

Also, VOT organises courses and visits to stockfree vegan organic farms where no animal manures, fish, blood or bone fertilisers are used in growing crops, unlike the case of standard organic produce.

VOT invite you to join the green, cruelty free, social revolution.

VOT (veganorganic@supanet.com),
<http://www.veganorganic.net>



VOT members Sierra Leone

SPRING INTO ACTION!

Welcome to Spring and well what a source of events we have in this issue (and lots of puns!). Space is short (nobody told Einstein) so also check our web site <http://www.networkingnewsletter.org.uk/Calendar> for more details on these events, including links to groups' web sites (and it is updated several times every week). Remember to check details of events before attending: we've done our best to ensure accuracy but... To list events for free, here and on the web site, or to correct details, contact Michael (0161 226 9321, info@networkingnewsletter.org.uk)

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

International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism

2004

UN International Year to Commemorate the Struggle against Slavery and Its Abolition

March

All Month

Veggie Month

A celebration of vegetarianism and campaigning to inform schools, retailers, restaurants, community groups and others about the benefits of a veggie diet. Info: Animal Aid (01732 364 546)

Monday 29 - Sunday 4 April

Real Nappy Week

The week aims to raise awareness of the environmental impacts of nappies and to inform parents about modern, shaped and fitted cloth nappies and laundry services. Nappy displays in Mothercare and John Lewis stores in Stockport. Unicorn Grocery, Chorlton, also taking part. Info: Women's Environmental Network (020 7481 9004)

Tuesday 30

Clothie Coffee Morning

10am-noon, Edgeley Library, Stockport. Part of Real Nappy Week.

Clean Up

1-3pm, area between Bonsall St, Stretford Rd, Royce Rd and Princess Parkway. Removing obsolete fencing and posts, clearing litter and cleaning up the footpath with the Green Party. Info: Manchester Green Party press office (225 4863)

CN4M Annual Forum: A Celebration of Achievements

5:30-9pm, Manchester Conference Centre, Weston Building, Sackville Street. A celebration of what the Community Network for Manchester (CN4M) has achieved so far and a chance to find out what other networks have been doing. Info: CN4M (237 9309)

Greater Manchester Coalition to Stop the War

7pm, Friends Meeting House, Mount Street M2. Info: Richard Searle, ANSWER Manchester (07760 224 580)

Lapland Summer

7:30pm, church hall, St James Parish Church. Illustrated talk by John Raines Snape. Info: Simeon Rydz, Manchester RSPB (434 2720)

Wednesday 31 – Monday 5 April

Windows For Communication

The inspiring Rutie Atsmon from Tel Aviv and Fahmi from Bethlehem will be here promoting dialogue between Israeli and Palestinian young people. They would like to make ongoing connections and to meet people from the local Jewish community and Palestinian Muslims communities in Manchester. Info: (jw062@hotmail.com)

Wednesday 31

100 Day Clean Up Event

10am, Swinton Grove Park. Info: Swinton Grove Park (223 8278)

Clean Up

Hulme Park. Info: Manchester Leisure (232 3100)

Wednesday 31

Arts and Neighbourhood Renewal Made Easy

6-8pm, Community Arts North West, 3 Stevenson Square. Sue Robinson will guide you through the sea of acronyms, partnerships & strategies which make up the world of neighbourhood renewal in Manchester. If you don't want to confuse your NRF with your LSP then come to this lighthearted starter session for artists new to the network. Organised by Artsnet, the Creative Arts Network that exists to enable people living or working in the city to engage with the arts and neighbourhood renewal. Bookings: Community Arts North West (237 3674)

Funding for Social Enterprise

10am-3pm, Bridge 5 Mill, 22a Beswick St M4. Free workshop on grants available and how to complete successful applications for funding a social enterprise. Bookings: Anna Seward (273 3340, 273 1736)

Biotechnology

7.30-9.30pm, Manchester Town Hall. Is biotechnology a nightmare or the new industrial dawn and can investment in these technologies be wise? Speaker: Kee Kok Lee, visiting Chair in Philosophy, Institute for the Environment, Philosophy & Public Policy, Univ of Lancaster. Info: Mike Franks, SERA (225 5328) or Martin Rathfelder, Socialist Health Association (0870 013 0065, ma.rathfelder@ntlworld.com)

April

All Month

Laboratory Animals Month

Thursday 1

Jews for Justice for Palestinians

6.30pm, Safad Cafe, 47 Bloom Street. Regular JfJP meeting. Info: Jews for Justice for Palestinians (07760 127809)

Windows For Communication

7.15pm, Friends Meeting House, Mount Street M2. See above.

Friday 2

Achievements, Problems and Challenges for Psychology in Cuba

2-4pm, New Teaching Room, Elizabeth Gaskell Campus, Manchester Metropolitan University. Info: Kath Knowles (247 2584)

The Big Conversation

7pm, Wright Robinson High School, Abbey Hey, Gorton. Part of Tony Blair's big listen-in, with Rt Hon Gerald Kaufman MP, Hazel Blears MP, Minister of State for crime reduction, policing and community safety and Michael Todd Chief Constable of Greater Manchester.

Saturday 3

Grand National

Aintree. Campaigning to stop more horses needlessly dying, including leafletting of betting shops in Manchester (meet fountains, Piccadilly Gardens at noon). Info: Becky, Animal Aid (01732 364 546) and Manchester Animal Protection (07761 533 152)

Get Involved with Charcoal

10:30am-12:30pm, Chorlton Water Park. Help make charcoal as part of the Mersey Valley Sustainable Woodlands Project. Trees thinned from nearby woods need to be logged up, stacked & heated slowly in a special charcoal burner. Start by emptying last week's charcoal from the burner - you can take some home for your summer barbecues. Wear old clothes, footwear and a hat, bring overalls if you have them or a change of clothes. Info: Chorlton Water Park (881 5639)

Community Gardening Club

10:30-11:30am, Gaskell Street. Info: Manchester Leisure (795 2650)

"Windows For Communication" Coffee Morning

10.30am, St Margaret's Church, Rufford Road, Whalley Range. Coffee morning and talk as part of the Windows for Communication. Info: (jw062@hotmail.com)

CLASH AVOIDANCE

Saturday 3 April

Be part of the West End Show

11am-3pm, John Street East, Ashton OL7. West End Community Centre is a thriving community portal utilised by the Healthy Living Project, Ashton's elderly community and young people. This spacious room was once used as a youth club and GO volunteers will be helping restore it to its former glories by painting and decorating. This will make it into a great social focus for Ashton's young people. Info: Matt, GO Manchester (833 0245, or 07947 781 154 on the day)

Sunday 4

Baths Open Day

12-4pm, Victoria Baths, Hathersage Road, Longsight M13. Open day and opportunity to discuss the future of the baths. The £3.5m that is coming to Victoria Baths as a result of the "Restoration" victory will be used to restore and re-open the Turkish Baths. But what about the rest of the building? A team of consultants are currently working on a group of Project Planning Studies to determine: the current condition of the building; its architectural and historic significance; the viable options for its re-use. Info: Victoria Baths (224 2020)

North Manchester Community Network AGM

1-4pm, Harpurhey Neighborhood Centre, Carisbrook Street, Harpurhey. Info: Margaret (205 8635, NorthManNet@aol.com)

Monday 5

Tenants and Residents Community Network

11am-1pm, Longsight Library. Info: Tina/Bernard (238 4920/613 5662)

100 Day Clean up Event

Philips Park. Info: Philips Park (223 8278)

How to Write a Business Plan

6-8pm, Community Arts North West, 3 Stevenson Square M1. Beginner or expert, this session will give you tips to help you build your business or project and put your vision in to words. Run by Stuart Worthington of Target Training. Bookings: Community Arts North West (237 3674)

Politics, Medicine and Science Do Not Mix Well

6:30pm, Cafe Muse, Oxford Road M13. With Prof. David Gordon, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry, Nursing & Pharmacy, Univ. of Manchester. Info: Dee Gilmore, Cafe Scientifique (275 2627)

Tuesday 6

Getting Local People Active and Involved

From £117.50. This lively, popular event will provide you with methods for increasing the interest and involvement of local people in environmental issues and projects, which you run. It will look at how to target local people, reach out to them & design easy ways for people to get active. Bookings: Environmental Trainers Network (0121 358 2155)

Clean Up & Flower Bed Planting

King George V Park. Info: Manchester Leisure (232 3100)

Woodland Work

1-2:30pm, Alexandra Park. Helping to build a nature trail. Info: (224 2902, 226 9127)

Funding

VAM, North Square, 11-13 Spear St. Free workshop on attracting funds for your organisation. Bookings: Suzanne Wright, VAM (236 3206)



Full information about these groups is on our web site at:

www.networkingnewsletter.org.uk/Contacts

Wednesday 7

World Health Day

The theme for World Health Day 2004 is Road Safety. On this day around the globe, hundreds of organizations will host events to help raise awareness about road traffic injuries, their grave consequences and enormous costs to society. They will also contribute to spreading the word that such injuries can be prevented. <http://www.who.int/world-health-day/2004/en/>

Press Release Workshop

From £88. Manchester. Hear from a PR professional on how to write a successful press release. Topics covered will include the format, content, language & layout. You will also hear from a local newspaper about the type of stories the media wants, as well as advice on building media relations. Bookings: The Media Trust (020 7874 7610)

Thursday 8

Tenants and Residents Community Network

11am-1pm, Millennium Power House, Moss Side. Info: Tina/Bernard (238 4920/613 5662)

Sunday 11 – Saturday 17

Mental Health Action Week

Mental Health Action Week is the Mental Health Foundation's annual awareness-raising week. Free Mental Health Action Week pack, including posters, postcards and other information available. Info: Mental Health Foundation (020 7802 0300, mhf@mfh.org.uk)

Monday 12 – Friday 30

Deadline for Disarmament

A two-week period in which people will publicly demand, through their MPs in the UK and British embassies and consulates abroad, that the UK government fulfills its treaty obligations to eliminate its nuclear arsenal. We will be asking for a timetable of significant steps, culminating in the decommissioning of all our nuclear weapons, on the clear understanding that if the government does not act then ordinary citizens will consider that the peaceful acts of disarmament and of civil resistance to Trident they undertake will be essential and legitimate. Info: Trident Ploughshares (0845 45 88 366)

Monday 12

National Zoo Awareness Day

Info: Captive Animals Protection Society (0845 330 3911). Poss. demo at Southport Zoo.

Tuesday 13

Wythenshawe Community Network AGM

Info: CN4M (237 9309, cn4m@cn4m.info)

Wednesday 14

Litter Pick

1pm, Clayton Vale Info: Clayton Vale wardens (223 8287)

Thursday 15

Project Monitoring & Evaluation

£30. 9:30am-1pm, VAM, 11-13 Spear Street M1. Intro training ideal for those that wish to monitor & evaluate the development and progress of their work. Bookings: Suzanne Wright, VAM (236 3206)

Community Safety Network

10am-2:30pm, venue TBA. Steering group meeting. Info: Sharon Lewis (877 5579, sharonlewis@ukonline.co.uk)

Friday 16

Spring Concert for Peace

£7, £5 conc. 8pm, Longfield Suite, Prestwich. Featuring Stanley Accrington, Manchester Community Choir, Bernie Murphy, Carol Batton. A celebration of the life of Norma Wilson, dedicated CND worker who passed away last year. All proceeds to GM&D CND & Campaign Against Depleted Uranium. Info: Gtr Manc & District CND (273 8283)

ANCE CALENDAR

Saturday 17 April

International Day of Farmers' Struggle Against GMOs and Patents on Life

Via Campesina, the global organisation of small farmers and peasants, has declared the 17th of April an International Day of Protest against GMOs and patents. They have issued an invite to concerned people everywhere to participate in this day of protest against neo-liberal policies, and in favour of an alternative project: a dignified life for everybody. Info: Via Campesina <http://www.viacam.org> <http://www.mindfully.org/GE/Farmers-Struggle-Against-GMO.htm>

Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty

Leaving Chorton Street at 8.30am for 12noon, march etc in Cambridge. Transport info: Manchester Animal Protection (0845 456 2492, info@mapsoc.org.uk) General info: NAVS (020 8846 9777)

Community Clean Up

10am-noon, Brookdale Park. Info: Manchester Leisure (232 3100)

Be involved from the weed GO!

11am-3pm, Dukinfield. The Family History Society of Cheshire provides resources for people researching their family history. They meet monthly and provide support for anyone trying to trace their family lineage. They wish to restore the beautiful graveyard at Old Chapel in Dukinfield so that the gravestones can be read again and create a family history resource that everyone in Tameside can make use. Volunteers will play a vital role in making the stones readable again by clearing the weeds that obstruct them. Info: Matt, GO Manchester (833 0245, gomanchester@csv.org.uk, or 07947 781 154 on day)

schNews Tour

Bolton. schNews will be celebrating their 10th birthday by a national tour showing some short films, talking about SchNEWS and getting your message across, about the G8 coming to Britain next year and giving local groups a forum to talk about what they're up to. Info: schNews (01273 685913, schnews@brighton.co.uk)

Sunday 18

National Day of the Dead

The UK Day of the Dead is inspired by the Mexican Day of the Dead, Dia de Muertos – a festival of welcome, a time of feasting and reunion – and the most important celebration of the year. Here in the UK we hold our Day of the Dead in springtime, when the burgeoning of life all around us helps us to contemplate the cycle of life and death with optimism. Each family in the UK is invited to light a candle at mealtime and share memories of the dead. Nationally there is a coordinated open day at many of the UK's natural burial grounds – places where eco-friendly burial takes place in a biodegradable coffin or shroud, and a tree or shrub is planted as a memorial instead of a headstone. People are invited to take tours of these sites and chat with the owners. The Natural Death Centre, a charitable project launched in Britain in 1991, aims to support those dying at home and their carers and to help people to arrange inexpensive DIY & eco-friendly funerals. Info: Natural Death Centre (0871 288 2098)

Monday 19 – Sunday 25

International TV Turnoff Week

A campaign to get us all off our sofas, and make us curious about the life we're missing! Have you ever gone away on holiday without television? Then you've already done a TV Turnoff. Maybe you missed a show here or there. But you found it surprisingly easy. Pretty soon you were more involved with the things you yourself could do than you were the things people on TV pretend to do. And when you came back home, the television seemed a bit alien. You'd forgotten how it demands attention. Sitting around watching seemed less fun. Even if you just want to be a "discerning viewer", remember that there's a whole industry of highly paid, well educated people whose job it is to see that you don't discern. They get paid to keep you sitting there, no matter what's on. That's why the best way to moderate your viewing is to stop watching entirely for a while. It will give you a chance to see how much TV you really need. You'll also get a chance to rediscover your own life: you are interesting. Your friends are worth knowing, and the things you do are more important than the things you watch others do on television.

Info: White Dot <http://www.whitedot.org>



Turn off TV, Turn on Life

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

Monday 19 – Sunday 25

World Lab Animal Week

Campaigning to highlight that every day one million animals will die in laboratories - 11 animals every second. It is estimated that between 100-150 million animals are used in experiments around the world annually. However, records show that more than two animals are killed as surplus to requirements for every animal used, and this is rising with GM experiments. That means another 240 million animals. Then there are animals killed in dissections or killed for their tissues or organs for which there are not even estimates for the number used. Established by the National Anti-Vivisection Society, World Lab Animal Day falls on 24 April every year, is recognised by the UN and is marked by anti-vivisectionists all over the globe. Whatever your commitments for the rest of the year, please spare some time for lab animals during World Lab Animal Week. This year let's make our mission to recruit more campaigners & build an army the government has to listen to. Leaflets available. Info: National Anti-Vivisection Society (020 8846 9777, info@navs.org.uk)

Monday 19

Greater Manchester Cycling Campaign

7:30pm, Friends Meeting House, Mount Street M2. Monthly meeting. Info: GMCC (224 3843, membership@gmcc.org.uk)

Wednesday 21

Release of Mordechai Vannunu

Expected release date of Vannunu who's been imprisoned for 18 years for blowing the whistle on Israel's nuclear weapons programme.

VCN Roadshow

10:30am-3:30pm, Harpurhey Neighbourhood Centre, Carisbrook Street M9. Help design a local volunteering service in your area. Info: VCN c/o Manchester Youth Volunteering Project (223 4855)

Project Monitoring & Evaluation

£30. 1:30-5pm, VAM, 11-13 Spear Street M1. Introductory training ideal for those that wish to monitor and evaluate the development and progress of their work. Bookings: Suzanne Wright, VAM (236 3206)

The Political Priorities of the GMPTA

5:30pm, lecture room G33, Architecture & Planning Building, University of Manchester, Oxford Road. Lecture by Roger Jones Greater Manchester PTA. Info: (David.Ling@umist.ac.uk)

Thursday 22 & Friday 23

Getting Support and Supervision Right

Volunteers who are well supported last longer, are a good source of word-of-mouth recruitment & are easier to manage. This National Centre for Volunteering course will look at all the elements of good volunteer support. Participants will gain ideas for retaining volunteers, an opportunity to evaluate their group's system of volunteer support, useful communication & assertiveness skills and advice on providing supervision to volunteers. Bookings: AM Training (01248 421 015)

Thursday 22

Funding Help for Community Buildings and Green Spaces

9:45am-noon, VAM, Spear Street. Free training course on alternatives to grant funding. Learn how to use your resources to bring in money, attract match funding, use the resources in your local community, make your project financially sustainable and plan for coping when the grant runs out. Bookings: VAM (236 3206)

Friday 23

Funding

VAM, North Square, 11-13 Spear St. Free workshop on attracting funds for your organisation. Bookings: Suzanne Wright, VAM (236 3206)

Integrated River Basin Management in the North West

Geoffrey Manton Building, Manc Metropolitan University. Symposium addressing research priorities in river basin management for achieving and sustaining good water quality in terms of the EU Water Framework Directive. Info: Dr. Amanda Wright (242 8200)

Saturday 24 April

World Day for Animals in Laboratories

Including Save Newchurch Guinea Pigs national demo (Save the Newchurch Guinea pigs: 01902 564 734) and against Hunting Life Sciences, Cambridge (SHAC: 0845 458 0630). Transport to both: Manchester Animal Protection (0845 456 2492)

Manchester Schumacher Lectures: "...as if people matter"

From £9 (exc. lunch). 10am-5pm, Friends Meeting House, Mount St. The ideas of E.F. Schumacher are about changing the direction in which today's society is moving. This inevitably comes down to individual people, how they live & the political structures within which they live. Today's economics & politics appear to be constructed in favour of the rich and powerful, to whom the poor & powerless do not matter. Even in Western democracies, we feel disconnected from the political process. These themes will be explored by speakers Clare Short MP ("Governing as though every-one matters: the only route to a safe and sustainable world"), Hilary Wainwright, Red Pepper ("Must participatory democracy come to the rescue of representative democracy?") & Craig Gibsons, Findhorn ("The Individual and the Collective: a spiritual ecology for the 21st century"). Info: Chris Lyons, Mcr Schumacher Lectures (01204 697411)

Community Clean Up

10am-noon, Cheetham Park. Info: Cheetham Park (795 2650)

Paint-pillars of the Community

11am-3pm, Ashton The Pakistani Ittihad Association started 3 years ago as a community centre & is used as a youth club, a venue for language classes & after school club. The upstairs area of the building has recently been renovated and will be used as a youth club for the young people in the area. Volunteers will be given the challenge of painting the walls in this part of the centre to create a bright and vibrant environment for the young people of Ashton. Info: Matt, GO Manchester (833 0245, or 07947 781 154 on the day)

Sunday 25 – Saturday 1

Save the Children Week: Skip a Treat

Skip a treat & help educate the world's poorest children. You may be surprised just how far your money goes. What would you go without to give a child the chance of a better future? A portion of chips? Box of chocolates? Trip to the cinema? For less than the price of a pack of crisps you could buy a textbook for a child in Sudan. While the cost of a bunch of flowers could cover a teacher's salary in Sri Lanka for an entire month. 115 million children throughout the world receive no education at all. As education is so fundamental to putting an end to poverty, this is unacceptable. But by providing children with essential school supplies, training teachers, supporting flexible learning schemes & developing education policies, we can address the problem. Please donate what you can by calling 0845 600 8241 or at any NatWest, Royal Bank of Scotland or Ulster Bank (until 28/5) or Save the Children shop. Money raised will be used to support Save the Children's work in the UK & with the world's poorest children. Save the Children Fund (020 7703 5400, enquiries@scfuk.org.uk)

Sunday 25

Africa Malaria Day

Malaria kills 1.1 million people every year, most of them children. In Africa, malaria is the number-one killer of children: a child dies of malaria every 30 seconds. But while children, especially those under 5, are the main victims of malaria, they have little opportunity to advocate on their own behalf, to demand the right to protection & good health and to voice their needs to those who have it in their power to make a difference: adults, parents and carers, decision-makers and the media. Info: Roll Back Malaria (InfoRBM@who.int)

Bird Watching at Seaforth Nature Reserve

Meet 9am, Gateway Hotel car park, East Didsbury. Trip to Seaforth Nature Reserve (£1 entrance charge) led by Sheila & Simeon Rydz. Info: Manchester RSPB (428 4570)

Vegan Organic Trust

1.30pm, 161 Hamilton Road, Longsight. Informal meeting talking about vegan organic issues. Peter White, VOT (928 3614)

Sunday 25

Seeds of Hope

7-9pm, Friends Meeting House, Cooper St. Stockport. Positive action for peace in the Middle East. A returned Ecumenical Accompanier from the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI) will speak and the meeting will explore different ways of addressing the issues, both locally and internationally. Info: Stockport Peace Forum (peaceforum@conistonroad.freereserve.co.uk)

Monday 26 – Sunday 2 May

RSPCA Week

The most important awareness and fundraising opportunity of the year for the RSPCA with almost every one of the Society's branches throughout England and Wales taking part. Every penny raised during the Week goes towards supporting local animal welfare within the community. Info: Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (0870 333 5999)

Monday 26 – Friday 30 April

Bluebell Recovery Project

Venues in Macclesfield, Wilmslow and Trafford (details TBC). Help protect our native bluebells from the invasive Spanish variety. Info: Mrs Andy Collins, Bollin Valley Partnership (01625 534 790)

Monday 26

Funding Help for Community Buildings and Green Spaces

5:45-8pm, VAM, Spear Street M1. Free training course on alternatives to grant funding. Learn how to use your own resources to bring in money, attract match funding, use the resources in your local community, make your project financially sustainable and how to plan for coping when the grant runs out. Training delivered by Community Technical Aid Centre (CTAC). Bookings: VAM (236 3206)

Aspects of Socialist Society

8pm, "Hare & Hounds", Shude Hill. Talk followed by questions and discussion. Info: Paul Bennett, The Socialist Party (860 7189)

Tuesday 27

Neighbourhood Renewal & Local Strategic Partnerships

From £118. Neighbourhood Renewal is a radical regeneration process. The Community Empowerment Fund, Community Networks and Local Strategic Partnerships involved will be explained using government guidance & the 88 pilot authorities. We will untangle and explain the jargon, inter-relationships, current practice and how the partnerships are intended to work. We'll share ways of encouraging residents' involvement and how they can influence neighbourhood funding priorities. By reviewing how the pilot authorities have now delivered during the first 3 years, we will look at what the future holds. Bookings: Environmental Trainers Network (0121 358 2155)

Spring Walk

1-2pm, Alexandra Park. Info: (224 2902, 226 9127)

EMCN AGM

6:30pm, Mill Street Venture Centre, 491 Mill Street, Openshaw M11. East Manchester Community Network Annual General Meeting with speaker from the LSP Culture Pool. Info: East Manchester Community Forum (223 3418, 230 6313, emcf@millst.fslife.co.uk)

Wednesday 28

International Workers' Memorial Day

An annual day of remembrance for workers killed and injured on the job. Every year, on this day, trade unions and workplace health and safety campaigners all over the world focus on the issue of workers' health and safety. Workers' Memorial Day is the day when we mourn for the dead, fight for the living, drawing attention to the plight of the 335,000 workers worldwide who die every year as a result of their work, but also campaigning to prevent further deaths, injuries and diseases. Info: TUC (020 7636 4030)

Assessing Community Strengths

£140. Manchester. Course aimed at managers and practitioners involved in community development or regeneration activity. It introduces the purpose of "community strengths assessments" and the stages of its implementation. Task-focused exercises will enable you to begin to develop a strategy for applying the framework and there will be time for discussion and review. Bookings: June Smith, Community Development Foundation (0116 262 2110)

Tenants and Residents Community Network

11am-1pm, Britannia Hotel, Palatine Road. Info: CN4M (237 9309)

schNews Tour

Manchester. See Sat 17 Apr. Info: schNews (01273 685913)

Thursday 29

CND/CADU Fund Raiser

£5. 9pm-1am, "Star and Garter" pub. Featuring Performance, The Strap Ons, Purgatory State and Moon with compere Edward Barton, plus DJs. Info: Greater Manchester and District CND (273 8283)

Friday 30 April

Gender Involvement in Decision Making

1-4pm, Behrens 0.1, Didsbury Campus, Manchester Metropolitan University. Initial findings of the Gender and Community Engagement (GEM) in Manchester Project. Participants will be reporting back on the gender composition of decision making in Manchester, from the local community level to the SRB partnership. Bookings: Damien Tolan, Community Audit and Evaluation Centre, MMU (247 2114)

Friday 30

Divest

Manchester Academy. Public awareness campaign to encourage people to find out whether or not they might be funding the World Bank with the ultimate aim to cut off all funding to the World Bank. Breakbeat, Graffiti and Drum&Bass. Info: (ranjan@riseup.net)

May

Saturday 1

Be blooming marvellous at Stamford Park

11am-3pm, Stalybridge. Stamford Park is the flagship park in Tameside, with a spacious greenhouse, river and beautiful walking areas. On the day, the challenge will be to transform a ridge in the park into a beacon for the park's bid for gardening honours! Weeding, tidying and some rebuilding of a crumbling rock wall will take place. Info: Matt, GO Manchester (833 0245, gomanchester@csv.org.uk)

Fundraiser for Deaf Asylum Seekers

£3.50. 7:30pm-midnight, Manchester Deaf Centre, Oxford Road. Disco to raise money for local deaf asylum seekers. Info: Sameeha and Kristine Must Stay (SMS: 07931 231 904, Tel: 740 8206 (for hearing supporters), Fax: 740 7113, deafstudentsmuststay@yahoo.co.uk)

Tuesday 4

Transport Pool Meeting

12:30pm, VAM, 11-13 Spear Street M1. Meeting of LSP/CN4M subgroup. Info: Clare, CN4M (237 9309, clare@cn4m.info)

The "Genetics Project" in postwar Britain

4-6pm, CHSTM Library, Room 3.29, Maths Tower, Univ of Manchester. Talk by Soraya De Chadarevian, University of Cambridge. Info: Centre for the History of Science, Technology & Medicine (275 5850)

Thursday 6

Marketing

From £88. 10am-1pm, Granada TV. This half-day seminar will provide you with the information to identify the best tools and activities to promote your organisation to each of its target audiences. It will cover the evaluation of your target audience groups, and data research and analysis to establish product differentiation. Marketing experts will also discuss how to establish a timeline for marketing activities, and useful marketing tactics. This will be illustrated with case studies from the not-for-profit sector. Bookings: The Media Trust (020 7874 7610)

Effective Report Writing Made Easy

From £95. Report writing need not be a daunting or dreaded task. Effective reports are a great way to communicate important information about your work. This course is aimed at those who have little experience of report writing or would like to refine their technique. Using short practical exercises, you will learn how to write effective reports that communicate your message. You will learn to analyse the purpose and audiences of any given report in order to decide the content, structure and style necessary to make it readable and effective. Bookings: Directory for Social Change (0151 708 0117)

Friday 7 – Sunday 9

Conflict Resolution

From £20. Ashton. Workshop looking at the underlying causes of violence and exploring new ways of dealing with conflict, for anybody who has niggling little resentments that become grudges... anybody who struggles with anger... and anybody who wants to find out about alternatives to violence. Level One workshop. Info: Fran Townsend, Alternatives to Violence Project Greater Manchester (832 3660)

Saturday 8

Vegan Festival

10:30-5pm, Sachas Hotel, Tib Street. Stalls on all aspects of the vegan diet. Info: Realfood (0845 458 0146, nwf@realfood.org.uk)

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

REGULARS

ACTIVITIES

Anti-War Demos: stalls/leafletting/vigils (by area then by day): Manchester – 1pm, every Sat, 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 Friday roadside vigils in Chorlton & Whalley Range; Bolton – peace vigil, second Thurs of month, 6-6:30pm and fourth Thurs of month, 12-12:30pm, both at Town Hall Square. Bolton Quakers (wkd20932@aol.com); Oldham – protest every Thurs, 4-6pm, "Peace Island" at junction of Rochdale Road & West Street; Rochdale – 6pm 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 Fris, vigil at traffic island, top Mossley; Trafford – 5:30pm, every Fri, vigil junction of Chester Rd & Edge Lane, Stretford

British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV): practical environmental activities *Bury* Tues & Thurs, meet 9:20am, outside Town Hall (796 6404) *Manchester* midweek group, every Tues, Weds and Thurs, meet 9:30am outside Chorlton St bus station (608 0498, 07740 899 539)

Critical Mass (celebration of cycling): 5/5:30pm, last Fri of month, meet outside Centre Library.

Cycle Rides: Dawdling Doctors (224 1303, sales@bikedoc.demon.co.uk) lead gentle c30 mile rides (Suns: 4 Apr, 9 May) and Flying Doctors Mountain Bike Club (224 1303, sales@bikedoc.demon.co.uk) rides Suns each month (18 Apr, 16 May). CTC South Manchester (<http://www.smctc.org.uk>) also have runs; Bury check out the council's web site (<http://www.bury.gov.uk/bury/councilservices/leisure/sports/cycling/events.asp>)

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

Greater Manchester Cares: 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

Hunt Sabs: with NW Hunt Sabs Assoc., every Saturday. Info: 07961 113084 or info@nwhsa.org.uk

Palestinian Support: leafletting outside Marks and Spencers in protest at their sourcing goods from Israel. *Manchester:* every Sat, 12-3pm, city centre stall. Info: (0781 654 7066) *Bolton:* every saturday, 1-3pm (Superdrug end of M&S). Info: Bolton Palestinian Support Group (07985 238 844)

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

Victoria Baths Open Days: first Sun of month, 12-4pm, Chorlton on Medlock. Friends of Victoria Baths (224 2020)

Vigils for the Disappeared: every Sat, 1pm, steps of Victoria monument, Piccadilly Gardens.

Woodland Clean Up: Sundays (18 & 25 Jan, 1, 8, & 22 Feb) 1pm, Heaton Park. Info: (0161 773 1085 ext 209).

MEETINGS

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

Anarchist and Libertarian Communist: discussions, 3rd Weds of month, 7:30pm, "Vine" pub, Kennedy St

Anarchist Federation every fortnight, various venues. Info: anarchist_federation@yahoo.co.uk

Manchester **Anarchist Youth**, 3pm, Cafe Pop every 2nd Sun. Info: 07816 420 391

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

Asylum Seekers Solidarity Socials: first Sat of month, 1-4pm, Cross Street Chapel. Info: Manchester Committee to Defend Asylum Seekers (740 8206)

Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament *Bolton* 2nd Thurs 7:30pm, Friends Meeting Hse, Silverwell St. Malcolm Pittock (01204 522 839) *Bury:* Cath (959 3191). *Mcr:* 2nd Weds, Friends Meeting Hse. John Cutts (494 8468) *Marple:* 2nd Weds of month, 8pm, Friends Meeting Hse, 79 Church Lane. *Prestwich/Whitefield:* 1st Thurs 7:30pm Betty Tebbs (766 9769). *Rochdale:* 1st Tues Rae (01706 378 043). *Salford:* 3rd Weds of month, Broad Walk lib. Barry Woodling (793 5122)

Manchester **Campaign to Protect Rural England:** 2nd Tues of month, 7pm, "Town Hall Tavern" public house

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

Sale & Altrincham **Conservation Volunteers:** 2nd/3rd Mon of month. Shelagh on 860 6910/275 3146

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

Cuba Solidarity Campaign: 7:30pm, 1st Mon 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 Mon of month, 7:30pm, Friends Meeting House, 6 Mount St. Info: 224 3843

Manchester **Earth First!:** 7:30pm, 2nd/4th Weds 226 6814

Trafford **Fair Trade** Steering Group: 1st Mon of month, 7.30pm, Altrincham Town Hall. Info: Colin Graham (941 2338)

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

Friends of Victoria Baths: last Mon of month, 7:30pm, Studio 21, Imex Business Park, Hamilton Rd, Longsight. Melanie (victoriabaths@manchesterwords.com)

Green Party: *Manchester:* third Thurs of month, 7:30pm, Hulme. Vanessa (227 9014); *Greater Manchester:* discussion evenings, first Tues of the month 8pm, "The Old Monkey", Princess St. Graeme (01204 853955)

Greenpeace *Eccles & Salford* 1st & 3rd Mon of month, "Royal Oak" pub, corner of Corporation St & Barton Lane, Eccles. Info: Mark Chamley (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. Info: Niall Power (286 5349, niallpower@supanet.com)

Libertarian Socialist discussion Group: first Weds of month, 7-8:30pm, "Hare and Hounds" pub, Shude Hill. Info: Martin (707 9652, northernvoices@hotmail.com)

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

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

Mothers Against Violence: last Weds 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

Altrincham/Hale **One World Group:** meets 2nd Monday of each month, 7:30pm, 97 Hale Road, Hale WA15. Info: Basil Wakefield (0161 962 3243, bwake@telinco.co.uk)

Manchester **Organic Gardeners:** 1st or 2nd Sat of month, 2-4pm, St Elizabeth's Church Hall, Lomond Road, Peel Hall, Manchester. Info: Jane Barkess (01706 211 377)

Oxfam: Oxfam North West Campaigns Office 838 5618

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

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

Manchester **Social Forum** every Thurs, 7.30pm, Friends Meeting House, Mount Street M2 5NS.

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: two Mons a month, 8pm, "Hare and Hounds" pub, Shudehill. Info: Paul (860 7189)

Socialist Party: every Tues, 7:30pm, downstairs at "The Vine" pub, Kennedy Street. Info: Hugh (248 0027)

Manchester **Solidarity Federation:** 1st Weds of month, 8:30pm, Hare & Hounds, Shude Hill. Info: 07 984 675 281

Stop the War: *GM Coalition:* every Tuesday, 7pm Friends Meeting House, Mount St. Info: Stop the War (07760 224 580); *Manchester Labour against the war:* for Labour Party members, every Thursday, 6:15pm, Members Room, Town Hall; *Oldham Stop the War Coalition:* third Tues of month, 7:30pm, One world Centre, King Street, Oldham; *Whalley Range Against War:* every Fri, 5pm, "Whalley Hotel" pub

Greater Manchester **Transport Consultative Committee** all meetings in Manchester Town Hall (Committee Room number in brackets) - *Bus* subcommittee: 5pm, usually last Mon of month (26Apr(3), 24May(3)). *Rail* subcommittee: 5:45pm, 3rd Thurs every other month (20May(3)). *Disability/Access* subcommittee: 5pm, various days (20Apr(3)). *GMTCC full mtgs* are 6pm, second Weds bimonthly, in Friends Meeting House, 6 Mount Street, unless stated (12May). 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) meets every 1st & 3rd Weds, 7pm, Pankhurst Centre, 60-62 Nelson St. All women welcome! Info: 225 6095; *Manchester Women's Drop In & Advice* every Thurs, 11am-2pm, Pankhurst Centre, 60 Nelson St. 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)



Protesters decide to enhance posters around the Labour Party's Spring Conference (see p1-2)

RESOURCES

Support our Voluntary and Community Sector

The Community Network for Manchester (CN4M) together with Manchester City Council has commissioned a review to consider the infrastructure support needs of the voluntary and community sector and how these can best be met. The review was carried out by the consultants Cordis Bright under the direction of a Steering Group, which included reps from both the City Council and the voluntary sector. CN4M are now seeking your view on the review. The full report can be obtained from Community Network for Manchester or downloaded from their website. CN4M are particularly interested in hearing your views on the general findings of the research (Section 2), your preferred option from the three proposed for delivering the strategy (Section 3) and any alternative proposals to these you may have. This review will have far ranging implications to the availability and delivery of support to your organisation or network in the future. You need to respond to let the steering group know what you think: no response means no action! The deadline for comments is 31 May.

John Wareham, CN4M (0161 237 9309)
<http://www.cn4m.info>

Green Computers?

The UN has an IT and Environment Initiative, which seeks to improve awareness and understanding of the environmental impact of IT. Their website will tell you most of what you want to know (and a lot of what you didn't want to hear!)

<http://www.it-environment.org>

Wanted

Talking of reusing computers, does anybody have hardware they can offer the Networking Newsletter. Particularly a CD writer, a hard drive (at least 20Gb and no bad sectors) or even a flat screen monitor or base unit (at least a 1GHz processor). Offers to it@networkingnewsletter.org.uk

Help Yourself

"Doing it for Ourselves" is an information pack produced by the Refugee Council on how to set up and manage a refugee community organisation, covering issues such as start-up, fundraising, financial management, communication, developing services for women, volunteers, recruitment, partnerships and dealing with the media. It's free to its target audience, £15 to others.

<http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/publications/pub008.htm>

Rather than repeat our resources list here every month – as useful as it may be with details as varied as free laptops, meeting rooms, media tips, reviews and recycling fridges – we thought you'd prefer more news in the newsletter and to go to the web site below to find out about the resources on offer to you

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

Blocking the Base



A report back from a Manchester activist at the recent blockade at Menwith Hill – the US's listening base in Yorkshire – as part of an international weekend of action against US militarism

We got up at 3am and were at the base around 4.30. The police were waiting. They were searching all the vans and taking the lock on stuff as intention to commit criminal damage. It was dark, freezing and rainy. We saw other vans that had been stopped and thought no-one had got through. But it got better. People had locked together in front of the main gate, in the road, so with them and the police, the gate was effectively shut for a couple of hours and all the workers were really frustrated, stuck in their cars on the road.

On gate 3, people in wheelchairs locked onto each other and then one guy locked himself between the wheelchair and the police van which was fun, because the police believed they had already grabbed all the lock on stuff. At gate 4, two freezing people sat in the road and caused chaos with the traffic, while the police used the tactic of waiting to see if people froze to death.

A guy at the main gate had his arm twisted so hard, he passed out and they had to get an ambulance. Loads of people were nicked. Don't know how many, but some people were just chucked in the police van and left there, freezing, for four hours.

I think, it was a pretty good day. Despite the cold, dark and endless rain, we shut three gates at least for a while. Think of how much we could have done if more people had come to Menwith. Then we really could have shut this obscenity down for the day.

Heather, Manchester Social Forum
(mancsocialforum@riseup.net)

<https://publish.indymedia.org.uk/en/regions/manchester/2004/03/287348.html>

Paper and Web News

Well, this is the 4th issue of the *Networking Newsletter* since we went monthly. It's not quite spread the workload but more like doubled it! But what do *you* think – is monthly better? Or is there just too much news on what is happening in Manchester for you to read?!

This month's issue has stories on success (p3), a round up of activities when Blair came to town (p1,2), a feature on veggies and vegans (p4) and on local issues that need your support, particularly Nine Ladies (p4).

But the *Networking Newsletter* is much more than this printed matter – the web site (see URL below) has more in-depth coverage, lots of links and is updated almost daily. Please take the time to visit the web site (or make it your home page) – suggestions for improvements always welcome. If you're not able to access the Internet or prefer a paper version of the contacts and resources listings send an SAE to the address below and I will send you them by return post.

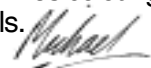
So what is it?

The *Networking Newsletter* has a 10 year history of helping campaigners in and around Manchester to work together more effectively. The focus is on those who are working for positive change on issues of peace, development, environment, human rights, animal rights and other areas of social justice.

Copies are sent out to subscribers and local libraries. When the budget allows, copies are also sent to those whose subscription has expired – use the form below to ensure you keep getting the newsletter!

Send us your News!

Articles for the next newsletter should be sent by Monday 19 April to 6 Mount Street, Manchester M2 5NS, email info@networkingnewsletter.org.uk or fax 0161 834 5797 (marked FAO: Networking Newsletter). Articles should be 50-200 words long, preferably with a picture or other hi-res colour graphic, and include your full contact details.



Campaign Camera



This month's campaign camera is from the protests outside the Labour Party's Spring Conference

held in Manchester in the middle of March. More on pages 1,2,3 and 10.



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