

NETWORKING NEWSLETTER

NETWORK FOR SUCCESS
REPORT OF THE DAY

Network for Success: A Success!

On Saturday 26 January, the Networking Newsletter Project held an afternoon of networking for groups working on environment, development, peace, human rights and animal rights. The "Network for Success" attracted over 40 groups (with another half dozen organisations that would have liked to make it but had prior arrangements). There was also a reasonable attendance from the general public, many having seen the adverts in the "Big Issue in the North".

The event was an overwhelming success. Comments on the evaluation form included "Lots of good talks, with a couple of extremely interesting ones brimming with ideas", "I am



Non-stall holders watch the opening speech



Michael opens "Network for Success"

very pleased to have attended, I met several old friends, new ones, and I want to partake in some of the activities", "You are doing great work, spread it far and wide" and "Enjoyed the Open Day and have followed up the useful contacts I made".

This newsletter is a report of the day – with photographs, information on groups that attended and a summary of the evaluation forms. Additionally, there is the latest news from campaigns in the region, an ever large events listing and a comprehensive listing of

groups in the Manchester area who are working for a better world.

Originally, the plan was to have a whole day for "Network for Success" with workshops (eg on media training, facilitation skills, successful campaigning and so on) in the morning. As it turned out, it was hard work organising half a day and everybody found that worthwhile in its own right. We hope that next year we will be able to build on this year, with more groups and more members of the general public, and perhaps series of workshops.

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>

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

NETWORK FOR SUCCESS

Over forty groups attended the event and were invited to give a paragraph on their activities.

Alternatives to Violence Project (Greater Manchester)

Sean Hughes, 6 Mount Street, Manchester M2 5NS. Tel/fax: 0161 832 3660, email: avp@freenet.co.uk

<http://>

www.avpmanchester.org.uk

Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) Greater Manchester is part of a wider group, AVP Britain. We are a network of volunteers running workshops for anyone who wants to find ways of resolving conflict. A low-cost membership scheme is planned.

Ananda Marga

Prema Sa'gar Rose, 42 Keppel Rd, Chorlton, Manchester, M21 0BW. Tel: 0161 282 9224, email: anandamarga.mcr@gmx.net

Ananda Marga is a worldwide network of local volunteers, motivated by the ideals of social service and the ancient spiritual practices of meditation and yoga. Social service projects aim to provide all with their basic needs and create a society free from exploitation. Meditation and yoga give self-inspiration and the strength to live our ideals. Please contact us for details of social service opportunities or to learn meditation and yoga.

Asylum Link

Chris Newsam, St. Anne's Centre, 7 Overbury Street,

Liverpool L7 3TH. Tel: 0151 709 1713, email: asylumlink@aol.com

Supporting and befriending asylum seekers and refugees campaigning for decent conditions and equal opportunities. Changing press, media and public perceptions of asylum seekers. Membership: £12 (concessions £6).

Bolton Wildlife Project

Jenny Hall. 01204 361 847

Campaign Against Arms Trade

Mike Kavanagh, 32 Astor Road, Manchester, M19 2LX. Tel: 0161 224 6042, email: mkavanagh@astor.demon.co.uk

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

CAAT is a broad coalition of groups and individuals working to end all government subsidies and support for arms exports, end arms exports to oppressive regimes, to those engaged in armed conflict or in a region of tension and exports to countries whose social welfare is threatened by military spending. CAAT supports measures both in the

UK and internationally to regulate and reduce the trade and lead to its eventual end.

Campaign Against Depleted Uranium

c/o CND (see below)

Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (Greater Manchester & District)

Bridge 5 Mill, 22a Beswick Street, Ancoats M4 7HS. Tel: 0161 273 8283, email: gmdcnd@gn.apc.org

City Centre Project

Mark Bell, 52 Oldham Street M4 1LE. Tel: 0161 228 7654

Council for Voluntary Service (Bolton & Stockport)

Bernadette Connor, c/o 389 Greenside Lane, Bolton. Email: bernie2000@mail.com

Russell Morley House, 8-16 Lower Hillgate, Stockport SK1 1JE. Tel: 0161 477 0246, info@stockportcvs.co.uk

Cuba Solidarity Campaign



DEP stall, with MERCi/Bridge 5 Mill and RAWA/Amanda Marga stalls in the background

(Manchester)

Mark Burton, 37 Chandos Road South, Chorlton. Tel: 0161 881 6887. Email: csc.mcr@pop3.poptel.org.uk

www.cubasol-manch.org.uk

Campaigns in solidarity with the Cuban people and works to disseminate accurate information about Cuba and to send material aid. Meets every first Monday of the month, 7:30pm, "Hare and Hounds" public house, Shude Hill. Membership for unwaged (£5), waged (£15), local groups (£30), regional groups (£40) and national organisations (£75) by contacting above or national CSC (020 7263 6452)

Development Education Project

801 Wilmslow Road, Didsbury, Manchester M20 2QR. Tel: 0161 445 2495, fax: 445 2360, email: depman@gn.apc.org

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

EMERGE

1st Floor, Barnhill Studios, Westwood St., Moss Side M14 4SW. Tel: 0161 232 8014/ 227 8700, fax: 0161 226 1946

Eve's Back

Lizzie Gent, Pankhurst Centre, 60-62 Nelson Street, Manchester M13 9WP. Tel: 0161 860 4285, email: evesback@yahoo.com

<http://www.little-magazines.co.uk/evesback>

Eve's Back is a women's networking magazine that aims to inform, entertain and keep women in touch with each other. Each quarterly issue contains news, campaign updates, features, interviews, reviews and four pages of packed listings and

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

contact information for women of Manchester, the North West and beyond. Meetings on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month, 7pm at the Pankhurst Centre.

Fairfield Composting

Val Rawlinson, 2 Hobson St, Higher Openshaw M11 1HT. Tel: 0161 370 9745, email: valerie.rawlinson@ukgateway.net

Friends of the Earth (Manchester)

6 Mount Street, Manchester M2 5NS. Tel: 0161 834 8221, info@mcrfoe.dabsol.co.uk

www.mcrfoe.dabsol.co.uk

Manchester Friends of the Earth works for a sustainable world and environmental justice. Locally they are campaigning for locally produced organic food, better public transport and against any plans for more incineration. Campaigns meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month starting at 7pm in the Friends Meeting House. Membership on a sliding scale between £5 (low waged) to £20 (groups).

Friends of the Fallowfield Loop

Costel Harnasz, 217 Burton Road, West Didsbury, Manchester M20 2NA. Tel: 0161 283 7548, email: charnasz@easynet.co.uk

The group promotes the use of the Fallowfield Loop (old railway line) as a multi-user greenway – cyclists, walkers, wheel chair bound and horse riders – involving local community groups. Meetings every 2-3 months at Union Chapel, Wellington Road, Fallowfield. Membership by £5

subscription to Dick Venes, 3 Lynton Drive, Burnage M19 2LQ.

Greater Manchester Cycling Campaign

Richard Venes, 3 Lynton Drive, Burnage M19 2LQ. Tel: 0161 224 3843, email: secretary@gmcc.org.uk

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

GMCC aims to improve conditions for cyclists of all descriptions in the Greater Manchester Area, represents the interests of cyclists with statutory bodies and with any other organisation whose activities and policies may affect the welfare of members of the cycling community. Meetings are on the second Monday of each month at 7:30pm in the Friends Meeting House, Mount Street. Membership forms available upon request.

Green Anarchist

Stephen Booth, 9 Ash Avenue, Galgate, Lancaster LA2 0NP. Tel: 01524 752 212, email: grandlaf@lineone.net

For the environment, for sustainability, from an anarchist point of view. Against globalisation and oppression. Campaigning on environmental issues and for civil liberties. Magazine subscription: £10 for 5 issues.

Greenpeace (South Manchester)

Elanor Gordon, 7 Marham Close, Chorlton, Manchester M21 7GO. Tel: 0161 881 1738, elanor_gordon@hotmail.com

Campaigning and fundraising

network with a section who meet regularly as well as interested individuals, working on issues of climate change, forests, oceans, nuclear, whales, GM and renewable energy. Meets 2nd Tuesday of month in Stockport. Free to get involved as active supporter. £10 to join Greenpeace UK.

Humanist Group

Niall Power, 118 Ivygreen Road, Chorlton M21 9FX. Tel: 0161 286 5349 (h)

Hydrogen Energy Association of UK & Ireland

Mike Koefman, Bridge 5 Mill, 22a Beswick Street M4 7HR. Tel: 0161 273 8595, email: mike.koefman@hydrogen-heauki.org

A small start-up group concentrating on the promise of renewably generated hydrogen as a fuel which, if universally adopted, would permit the Earth's climate to acquire its previous equilibrium. Annual subscription £10-£25 according to means.

ICA:UK

Martin Gilbraith, P.O. Box 171, Manchester M15 5BE. Tel: 0161 953 4064, email: martin@ica-uk.org.uk

<http://www.ica-uk.org.uk>

A global network of non-profit non-governmental organisations in 34 countries. Activities in the UK include an international volunteer programme, facilitation and facilitation training, and capacity building with overseas partners. ICA:UK is a national network of 150

individuals and families with 4 paid staff. Annual membership costs £10/£15 and members receive a quarterly newsletter, invitations to meetings and events, and have an on-line members' forum.

Intermediate Technology Group

Richard Venes, 3 Lynton Drive, Burnage M19 2LQ. Tel: 0161 224 3843

Jubilee Debt Campaign (Greater Manchester Network)

Andrew Dawson. Tel: 0161 832 5253, 01257 404373, andrewdawson51@hotmail.com

www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk

The Jubilee Debt Campaign is a coalition of local/regional groups and national organisations continuing the work of Jubilee2000 and Drop the Debt to bring about lasting and comprehensive debt relief for the poorest nations of the world by a fair and transparent process. Meetings are often held at 90 Deansgate, for details contact Andrew.

Manchester Committee to Defend Asylum Seekers

Tony Openshaw, 400 Cheetham Hill Road, Manchester M8 9LE. Tel: 0161 740 8206, fax: 0161 740 7113, tony.openshaw@pop3.poptel.org.uk

Manchester Environmental Resource Centre initiative (MERCi)

22a Beswick Street, Ancoats

M4 7HR. Tel: 0161 273 1736.

Email: merci@gn.apc.org

<http://www.bridge-5.org>

MERCi is working to set up a centre for sustainable living in a refurbished mill. Core projects include supporting sustainable enterprises, working closely with the local community and broad education projects. MERCi has a resource space with facilities for public use. Membership: £7.

Manchester Social Services

Nick Clegg, email: nclegg@notes.manchester.gov.uk

Mersey Basin Trust

Caroline Downry, 28th Floor, Sunley Tower, Piccadilly Plaza M1 4BT. Tel: 0161 228 6924, fax: 0161 236 3391, trust@merseybasin.org.uk

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

The Trust helps people to understand, protect and improve their water courses and surrounding land to create a sustainable environment for the benefit and enjoyment of everybody. Free membership – phone for an application form.

National Coalition of Anti-Deportation Campaigns

Tony Openshaw, 400 Cheetham Hill Road, Manchester M8 9LE. Tel: 0161 740 8206, fax: 0161 740 7113, tony.openshaw@pop3.poptel.org.uk

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

National Coalition of Anti-Deportation Campaigns is a voluntary organisation which provides practical help and advice to people facing

deportation on how to launch and run anti-deportation campaigns. NCADC provides a network for campaigns across the country, allowing them to support each other. Membership for unwaged (£2), waged (£5 – £20), Trade Unions/organisations (£35 – £50) by sending to NCADC, 131 Camberwell Road, London SE5 0HF.

Neighbourhood Friends

Lynne Jones, 0161 436 7873,
christopher_john.green@virgin.net

Networking Newsletter Project

6 Mount Street, Manchester M2 5NS. Tel: 0161 226 9321, fax: 0161 834 5797, email: *info@networkingnewsletter.org.uk*

www.networkingnewsletter.org.uk

The Networking Newsletter Project's mission is to help social justice campaigners in Manchester work together more effectively, by networking activists in and around Manchester who are working

for positive change on issues of peace, development, environment, human rights, animal rights and other areas of social change, and to increase the awareness of these issues. The Project publishes a regular newsletter containing information and news on local and global campaigns including an events calendar. The Project organises campaigning training and networking sessions. Membership: unwaged £4, waged £10, groups without staff £12, with staff £20, statutory bodies & ethical businesses £60. Details on back page!

Renaissance Artists & Writers Assoc

Prema Sa'gar Rose, 42 Keppel Rd, Chorlton, Manchester, M21 0BW. Tel: 0161 282 9224, email: *rawa.mcr@gmx.net*

RAWA is an initiative to uplift and inspire people through music and the arts. Local voluntary groups are active in many countries around the world. We aim to break down barriers between people and

cultures, and to bring together artists and musicians wanting to inspire others through their art.

Shared Interest

Elise Fairbanks.
Tel: 01422 844 649,
email: *fairbank@surfaid.org*

Socialist Party (Manchester)

Paul Bennett, 6 Burleigh Mews, Hardy Lane, Chorlton, Manchester M21 7LB.
Tel: 0161 860 7189.

www.worldsocialism.org

Our goal is a world that belongs to its people, not to a small class of parasites. We advocate the abolition of the wages system – where there is no money, no buying or selling, no countries, where production is for use not profit. We meet twice a month, on Mondays, in central Manchester. Contact the above for further details. To apply for membership (£3 per month) contact the above.

Tamil Centre for Human Rights

Tamil Refugee Welcome Group

Vegan Organic Trust

David Graham, Anandavan, 58 High Lane, Chorlton M21 9DZ. Tel: 0161 860 4869, *veganorganic@supanet.com*

www.veganorganic.net

Promotion of vegan organic/stock free horticulture and agriculture. Worldwide membership philosophy based on sustainable organic growth and nonviolence. Membership is £12pa and



Joint RAWA & Ananda Marga stall

includes magazines, advice, information, training courses and visits to vegan farms.

Western Sahara Campaign

Oxford Chambers, Oxford Place, Leeds LS1 3AX. Tel/ fax: 0113 245 4786

World Development Movement (South Manchester)

Dan Rayburn, 'Chasewood', Woodville Rd, Altrincham WA14 2AN. Tel: 928 6346, danrayburn2002@yahoo.com

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

WDM campaign for the continuation of multilateral debt cancellation, reform of the WTO and international trade/investment legislation. They are participating in Fair Trade Fortnight (4-17 March) and focusing on the Commonwealth Games to raise consciousness of the effect that debt and free trade are having on many of the countries represented. Meets every 3rd Thursday of the month, 6.30pm, Friends Meeting House, Mount St. National subs: £16, £8 unwaged, £30 organisation, £22 overseas.

Those who couldn't make it...

African & Caribbean Mental Health Services

Zion Community Centre, 339 Stretford Road M15 4BY. Tel: 0161 226 9562, email: info@acmhs-blackmentalhealth.org.uk

Earth First! (Manchester)

22a, Beswick Street M4 7HS. Tel/fax: 0161 226 6814,

*mancef@nematode.freeseve.co.uk
www.earthfirst.org.uk*

Local radical grassroots non-hierarchical autonomous group of the international Earth First! movement. Campaigns on crucial ecological issues. Meets every 2nd & 4th Weds of the month, 7:30pm, phone for venue details.

GMCVO

*St Thomas Centre, Ardwick Green North M12 6FZ. Tel: 227 1000, fax: 273 8296, email: gmcvo@gmcvo.org.uk
<http://www.gmcvo.org.uk>*

Green Party (Manchester)

Vanessa Hall. Tel: 227 9014)

Lifeline

101-103 Oldham St M4 1LW. Tel: 0161 839 2054 ext 104

Manchester Progressive Enterprize Network

c/o MERCi (see above)

Mediation Services

Sarah Ludford, Gainsborough House, 109 Portland Street M1 6DN. Tel: 0161 237 3434

Oldham One World Centre

Wynne Simister, King St, Roundabout, Oldham. Tel: 0161 652 0838, email: wsimister@btinternet.com

Voluntary Action Manchester

*North Square, 11-13 Spear Street, Manchester M1 1JU. Tel: 236 3206, fax: 228 0464, vam@vamanchester.org.uk
www.vamanchester.org.uk*

Women's Action Forum

Livia Sousa, 97 Princess Road, Moss Side M14 4TH. Tel: 232 0545, fax: 232 0546.

We aim to support women, in particular black women, in fulfilling their potential by accessing education, training and employment.



Preparing the Tamil Centre for Human Rights stall

What People Thought...

Twelve questionnaires were returned. Here is a brief analysis of their replies. Totals may not always equal 12 due to multiple and blank answers.

How did you hear about the day?

Networking Newsletter: 5
 From a friend/colleague: 5
 Via email: 4
 Advert in Big Issue: 1

What were your expectations?

To find out about other groups/campaigns: 4
 To get/share information: 3
 As it was: 2
 To network: 2
 Informal gathering: 1
 To make contacts: 1
 To promote my group: 1
 Just the same old faces: 1

Were your expectations met?

Yes: 9

How expectations not met?

More stalls than expected: 1
 Less public than expected: 1
 More new faces: 1
 Oxfam/Christian Aid not there: 1
 Free drinks unexpected: 1

Did you enjoy the event?

Yes: 10
 No: 1

What was the most useful part?

Information: 4
 Meeting others: 3
 Access to new faces: 1
 Informal chats: 1
 Everything: 1

What could be improved?

More general public: 2
 Paying for refreshments: 2
 Signposting areas: 1
 Having workshops: 1
 Sitting area: 1
 Charging for stalls: 1
 Food available: 1

What the Organisers Thought...

The above will be taken into account for next year's event, but we're pleased that the vast majority of people found the afternoon most enjoyable and useful. The overwhelming number of people wanting stalls meant that, unfortunately, no room could be provided for networking. However, people reported they did have lots of productive conversations with other campaigners. It would have been good if more public were in attendance but it's hard to see what more could have been done (adverts were put in Big Issue and fliers distributed through several outlets). And it was much more hard work than originally envisioned!

Those Present...

Below is a list of those who popped in during the day. It's by no means complete!

Anthony Schofield, Jon Pike, James Meeton, Susan Moore, Jeremy Tusting, Ms. S. Peters, Ben Rothwell, Bob Rothwell, Bob Dickinson, Geoff Sands (Appropriate Building), Jim Schumm (Greater Manchester Transport Action Group), Janet Christopher, Kate Kavanagh, Ester Kavanagh, Vincent Walsh, Enid Pinch (Quaker Social Justice Group), Alan Pinch, Kev Animp, Gill Wright (Friends of Victoria Baths), Sarah Wright, Barry Johnson (Birchfields Green Action Group), Michelle Volence, Steve Bonater, Lydia Meryll, Frank Kennedy (NW Friends of the Earth), Sara Cully, Thomas Stewart, Christopher J. Green, Catherine Connor, Bernadette Connor, Margaret Beetham, Janet Batsleer, Elizabeth Chater, P. Padmere, V. Phipps, Chrstopher Cust, Jzuim Ford, Andy Higgins (Manchester Deaf Centre), Edward Smith, Shane Hoyen, Alisa Ronan, Lizzie Hamer, Councillor Neil Swannick, Marian Blair (Working for Health in Wythenshawe), Phil Payne, Debbie Jallison, Pam Flynn, Dave Balmer, Carol Batton, Margaret Westbook, Brigid Benson (GAIEA), Duncan Lynch, Lena Karamanidon (Common Ground), Martin Bennett, A. S. Lowe, Willy McCourt, G. McCourt, Mary Lawson, J. Simcock, David Bossand, Pip Smithson and Esme Smithson.

Without Whom...

The day would not have been possible without a grant from the Acorn Trust, the support of the Friends Meeting House and use of space at Manchester Friends of the Earth. Many volunteers willingly gave their time and support, before and on the day: Maggie & Phil Baldwin, Michael Bane, Julie Curley, Mike Kavanagh, Mary Lawson, Liam, Rick Seccombe, Graeme Sherriff, William Simcock, Steve Suttill, Lauren Walker, Adrian & Janet Wilson. Many thanks to all who made it such a success!

NEWS

Accessible Housing

In middle January, a short notice demo was called that led to an occupation by the Disabled People's Direct Action Network in an accessible council office. The protest aimed to encourage the Housing Director of Manchester City Council to address the crisis in housing disabled people.

Clair Lewis had been waiting for safe accessible housing for 5 years, tried everything and been offered a stack of unsuitable homes. Clair lost patience and called out for advocates. An idea was grown and activated by every DANer they could get hold of, who had a chance or means to join in. Clair moved into the local housing office and held a three day "house warming party" with a bunch of house-warming cards and balloons people sent.

DAN demanded the Housing Director re-house them appropriately and create an action plan to deal with the City wide crisis. A reliable source in Manchester's Housing Department admitted that there are "probably thousands" waiting for accessible housing.

"It seems whenever someone tries to help me – my MP, or Deputy Leader of the Council – the Housing Department offers me yet another obviously unsuitable property, just to be seen to be doing something." said one activist.

In Manchester, and nationally, lack of safe housing and support means disabled people can't leave hospital, their parents or abusive relationships, forcing hundreds into institutions such as nursing homes and respite. They are forced into dependency by our circumstances, not just by illness or impairment.

The action ended fifteen minutes before the protesters were to be taken into custody. Everybody left with no charges or arrests and having got their meeting with the Director of Housing, Heads of Service and the support of the deputy leader of the council.

Crip-stirring Culture (Campaigns Section)

<http://www.johnnypops.demon.co.uk/poetry/articles/housing/index.htm>

Grant Cut Could Close GMCVO

The Association of Greater Manchester Authorities (AGMA) is proposing to switch its entire voluntary sector funding to the cultural sector. The £623,000 currently paid to 15 organisations, including Greater Manchester Centre for Voluntary Organisation (GMCVO) is 21% of the "Section 48" money paid out by AGMA and will in future, if AGMA goes ahead with their plans, be paid to the cultural sector... who already receive the remaining 79% of the money (over £2 million).

This proposal would sweep away GMCVO's core funding, threatening their very existence. Yet, Government policy wants to see effective voluntary sector infrastructure bodies at all levels. And AGMA itself has asked GMCVO to be a key partner in its own Greater Manchester Strategy and has said their "commitment and involvement is essential".

Letters of support for GMCVO should be sent to the AGMA chair, Councillor Peter Smith, "Mysevin", Old Hall Mill Lane, Atherton, Manchester M29 9RG and copy to GMCVO.

Greater Manchester Centre for Voluntary Organisation, St Thomas Centre, Ardwick Green North, Manchester M12 6FZ. (0161 277 1011, gmcvo@gmcvo.org.uk)

Beyond Television

Beyondtv is an independent media project starting up in Manchester at www.beyondtv.org. It's an open publishing site which will complement the *Networking Newsletter* and will allow activist and independent reporters to post up news stories that you don't see on the news. They will train campaign groups to maximise the communication possibilities of the Internet and low cost video production.

sagaponic@yahoo.com, mickfuzz@rocketmail.com

Fair Careers Fair

Kaleidoscope is the careers information fair for voluntary, creative and public sectors occurring at The Academy on Wednesday 13 March from 11am until 4pm. There will be more than 70 representatives from career areas such as the voluntary sector (eg paid work in charities, voluntary work with CSV, Manchester Mencap, Prince's Trust, overseas work and travel eg BUNAC, Frontier, Raleigh International) and the creative sector (Museum of Science and Industry, Cultural Industries Development Service, Liverpool & Manchester Design Initiative, Northern Trust for Dramatherapy and commercial careers eg MMU Public Relations MA, Chartered Institute of Marketing, Manchester University Press). From the public sector there will be government

organisations and public services (Foreign & Commonwealth Office, Teacher Training Agency), traditional and alternative health (eg Manchester NHS Agency, Mental Health Services of Salford NHS Trust, North West College of Homoeopathy) and community and social work (eg Creative Support, Salford Community & Social Services).

Kaleidoscope is not a jobs fair, although some exhibitors may have paid or unpaid work experience, but it is an invaluable chance for you to network and gather information. If you want to carve out a career in one of these fields, you cannot afford to miss this fair!

*Fiona Christie, University of Manchester and UMIST
Careers Service (0161 275 2828,
fiona.christie@man.ac.uk)*

Networking Newsletter Project AGM

After the "Network for Success" event on Sat 26 Jan 2002, the Networking Newsletter held its Annual General Meeting.

Present

Richard Venes (G.M. Cycling Campaign), Mike Kavanagh (Manchester Campaign Against Arms Trade), Pam Flynn (Northern Assembly of Women), Alan Neill (Manchester Cuba Solidarity Campaign), Costel Hamasz (Friends of Fallowfield Loop), Lydia Meryll (GM SERA), Frank Kennedy (Manchester Friends of the Earth), Michael Bane (Networking Newsletter Project), Ruth Abraham (Western Sahara Campaign) and Deirdre O'Connell (Tamil Centre for Human Rights).

Apologies

Steve Suttill (Manchester Area Resource Centre) and Mary Lawson (Manchester Friends of the Earth)

Constitution

The draft constitution was presented. It was noted that it should read "All voting at the

AGM will be by simple majority of members present" under "Membership & Management". Otherwise the constitution was adopted with all voting in favour.

Accounts & Annual Report

Michael presented the audited accounts (details upon request) and explained that it had been an atypical year with a large amount of grant income (c£3K), and that the spending of these grants would be in the following year's budget, mainly on the Network for Success event, which all agreed had been "very good". £450 was raised from subs and £300 from adverts.

Michael gave a quick overview of the Project's work in 2001, during which membership had increased, newsletters had come out as planned every other month (only one issue being a week late), and the grants had enabled extra copies to be printed and circulated (resulting in more membership and better networking). "An achievement" was a comment made and agreed by all present.

Richard Venes and Ruth Abraham formally proposed and seconded accepting the accounts and annual report.

Election of Committee

Last year's committee had consisted of Michael Bane. Mary Lawson and Steve Suttill, with others being informally co-opted for various tasks and decisions. Thanks to be passed on.

After a brief discussion, it was felt that a small committee with a larger reference group might work well. The following were elected to the committee: Michael Bane, Mary Lawson, Mike Kavanagh and Steve Suttill. Everybody else present agreed to be on the reference group.

Resolutions

There were no resolutions from the floor.

Any Other Business

People re-iterated that the "Network for Success" had been a very good day with lots of interesting conversations.

Mapping the Route to Inclusion

Manchester Friends of the Earth are embarking on a new adventure that is a marked diversion from their usual campaigning activities. The subject: Transport and Social Inclusion. Working with community groups in East Manchester, the group will identify the transport needs and problems of the people in the area. They will work to improve the situation with walking and cycling facilities and public transport services, amongst other priorities that arise from participative consultation methods. The project aims to learn more about the transport needs of relatively deprived areas, and work to highlight the relationship between transport and social and environmental conditions. Campaigner Graeme Sherriff is enthusiastic, "This is a new and exciting experience for us. As a campaigning group, we are used to telling people what we think, not listening to them. We are very much looking forward to working with community groups in East Manchester."

The group are looking for partner organisations in the area and for information on similar projects. Organisations and individuals who pledge to be involved will receive training in participatory appraisal (with Open College Network accreditation) from Brighton based consultants, Development Focus. For more information, or to get involved, please get in touch!

*Graeme Sherriff, Manchester Friends of the Earth
(0161 834 8221,
info@mcrfoe.dabsol.co.uk)*

The Freed Trade Hall

On 2 February, Manchester's Free Trade Hall was occupied by 50 people, hanging banners and leafleting around the historic site. They demand the building returned to use by the general public, as intended by the Hall's founders, and are concerned that the sale of the Free Trade Hall is part of the council's "asset stripping" of the city in order to fund the Commonwealth Games.

On the site of the infamous Peterloo Massacre, the Free Trade Hall stands unrivalled as a key monument to the struggle for democracy. The building itself was founded in 1840 to house the great Corn Law debates of the 19th century and to provide space for Manchester people to hold political, religious and cultural public meetings. The Manchester Corporation bought the Free Trade Hall from the Manchester Public Hall Company in May 1921, "so that the Hall should not be lost to citizens." Yet

more recent times have seen Manchester Council's attitude change.

Despite opposition from the city's Civic Society, the council has sold the building to a private developer for £4 million, and is currently scheduled for 95% demolition to make way for a £45 million luxury hotel.

Sam Hunt, a banner-hanger said: "I call on people everywhere to speak up for keeping public space, starting with the Free Trade Hall. This unique, historical site has been the launchpad of ideas and music that have shaped the world. Surely Manchester's prestige does not have to be built on the ruins of our history?"

The first time a "Votes for Women" banner appeared in public was at the Free Trade Hall in 1905. Since then the building has been graced by a wide range of people – Sex Pistols, Charles Dickens, Dalai Lama. Bob Dylan's first gig with an electric guitar was met with a cry from the audience of "Judas" when he appeared at the Free Trade Hall.

<http://www.freetradehall.org>

SPRING INTO ACTION!

Here's another packed listing of all sorts of campaigns and activities for the Spring and beyond. For updates, more details and links to other groups' websites check out:

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

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

Campaigns are given in red

Meetings, conferences and training are given in blue

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)

February 2002

opportunity for discussion. Info: Hughie, Manchester Branch of the Socialist Party (01204 844 589)

All Month

Stop the Hare Coursing

Info: League Against Cruel Sports (020 7403 6155) or Hunt Saboteurs Association (0845 450 0727) or Manchester Animal Protection (07951 228 981/07931 586 826)

Saturday 23

One Human Culture

£4 suggested donation. 7pm, St Werburgh's Hall, 388 Wilbraham Rd, Chorlton. A local performance of multi-cultural song and dance, to promote a sense of unity and harmony within the community and an experience of the one human culture within all. Performances from China, Africa, India, the Caribbean, Ireland, Russia, and Manchester! Info: Renaissance Artists & Writers Association (282 9224, rawa.mcr@gmx.net)

Huge Refurbishment

11am-3pm, The Lone Parent Project, 5 Nathans Road, Benchill. The Nathans Road Project provides accommodation and specialist mental health support to women and their children. Volunteers are needed to get stuck into a wide variety of activities from emulsions of the communal areas to painting one of the 3 murals being created on the day. There is a great deal to do at this venue and by giving 4 hours of your time you will make a big difference. Info: Samantha Elkailani, GO Manchester(833 0245)

Globalisation and Socialism

11.30am-5.30pm, Mechanics Institute, 103 Princess Street, Manchester. Day school with talks plus plenty of

Saturday 23

Imperialism and Resistance

Pennine Way Hotel, Manchester Street, Oldham. Marxist Forum followed by showing of "Genova Libera" video. Info: Jake Hoban, Manchester SWP (jhoban@jhoban.worldonline.co.uk)

Tuesday 26

Personal Values and Visions

Environmental Trainers' Network, BTCV (0121 358 2155)

South Manchester Community Network

7:30pm, Grosvenor St Aidan's United Reformed Church, Palatine Road (corner of Parkfield Road), Didsbury. Discussion on how to set up the South Manchester Community Network as part of Manchester's Local Strategic Partnership. Info: Bob Stacey (881 6660)

Campaign Against Arms Trade

7pm, Britons Protection. Informal meeting of the local group. Info: Manchester Campaign Against Arms Trade (224 6042, mkavanagh@astor.demon.co.uk)

India and Pakistan

£2, £1 concessions. 7pm, Unitarian Chapel, Cross Street. Marxist Forum discussing the brink of war over Kashmir. Info: Jake Hoban, Manchester SWP (jhoban@jhoban.worldonline.co.uk)

36 Days That Shook the World

7:30pm, Mechanics Institute, Princess St. After 36 days in

See

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

The NETWORKING NEWSLETTER PROJECT's

CLASH AVOIDANCE

See

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

NCE CALENDAR

See

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

REGULARS

See

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

RESOURCES

See

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

Bookmarks

GMCVO Handbook 2002

The latest of the handbook, published by Greater Manchester Centre for Voluntary Organisation, is now available for £15 (community/voluntary groups), £30 (public/statutory agencies) or £50 (private sector). Listings include over 400 groups whose work covers Greater Manchester, media contacts, venues for meetings, funding information and where to get resources and equipment.

GMCVO (0161 277 1012, <http://www.gmcvo.org.uk>)

Pass the Book

There are very few radical or alternative bookshops left in Manchester now. In fact the only one we know of us "Pass the Book" which sells new & second hand books of interest to women. Pass the Book is at the Pankhurst Centre, 60-61 Nelson Street, Manchester M13 9WP (273 5673, murphy_books@hotmail.com)

The Great Grant Roundup

Two funds this month, both concerned with development issues. First up is the Home Office's Active Community Unit (ACU) to whom voluntary and community organisations can apply to for up to £50,000 to recruit and train somebody to inspire local people to get involved in voluntary activities to tackle social exclusion.

Details: 020 7217 8565 or

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/acu>

Second is various campaigners' favourite oil company, Shell, who are dishing out small grants to anybody who wants to organise a day-long meeting in a venue holding 50 people in order to network over community-based sustainable development issues. (Shell have been the subject of campaigns over their human rights records, particularly in Nigeria.). Details: Shell Better Britain Campaign (01211 248 5900)

Money for Nothing

Community Accountancy Service are running free surgeries to help local voluntary groups manage their finances better. One hour slots between 10am and 3pm are available on the last Thursday of the month from now until November (except March's slot will be Wednesday 27 March).

Community Accountancy Service (0870 953 4053)

CONTACTS

See

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

What is the Networking Newsletter?

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

<http://www.networkingnewsletter.org.uk> gives the latest news on all these issues, as well as pulling together in one publication all the campaigns happening over the next few months. The Project also provides training for groups on issues such as media work and campaigning.

Free copies of the *Networking Newsletter* are distributed around the city, primarily in the basement of the Quakers (6 Mount Street) and local libraries, but also at Cafe Pop (Oldham St.), Chorlton Wholefoods (Beech Rd) ERIC (Central Library), MARC (28 Edge St.) Misty's veggie cafe (Longsight), Pankhurst Centre, and Bridge 5 Mill (22a Beswick St.). If you know of elsewhere for copies to be left please let us know by ringing 0161 226 9321.

Next Issue

The next *Networking Newsletter* will be published ready for May. Articles should be sent by Monday 22 April to 6 Mount St, Manchester M2 5NS, fax 0161 834 5797 (marked "FAO: Networking Newsletter") or



The Networking Newsletter stall and display at "Network for Success" (see page 1)

email (text files or Microsoft Word 2000) at info@networkingnewsletter.org.uk Articles should be 50-250 words long (and preferably) with a picture or other graphic.

What our readers say

Here's a few snippets about the newsletter and the work of the Networking Newsletter Project:

"Excellent work for keeping us in touch and up to date with campaigns, especially in Greater Manchester" (Eve's Back)

"Excellent work. Keep striving to involve a greater spectrum of groups and finding ways for them to share their common goals" (RAWA)

"Valuable information about events and actions and contacts in the Greater Manchester area" (Manchetser Campaign Against Arms Trade)

Subscribe to the Networking Newsletter

Complete and return the form below to receive the *Networking Newsletter* by post for a year.

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

Name Tel:

Address

Organization

Email: Web site:

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

Yearly subscription rates are below – feel free to add a donation, whatever size...

£4 unemployed/students [1 copy per issue]

£6 working individuals

£25 voluntary groups (with staff)

£12 voluntary groups (no staff)

£60 statutory bodies/(ethical) businesses

Please make cheques payable to "Networking Newsletter".