

## Wave or ripple? Julian reports

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In the run-up to the Copenhagen climate summit, Manchester FoE, along with other environmental campaigning groups and Manchester residents, joined thousands in London for the Wave, the world's biggest Climate Change march. On December 5, two trains chartered by the Co-operative took us to London to march on the Houses of Parliament, urging the Government to lead the way at Copenhagen in tackling climate change.

A great thing about the Wave was that it was appealing to people who wouldn't normally get involved, so I took a bunch of friends down with me. I was impressed to find people I knew on the train and the onboard entertainment really added to the sense that campaigning is fun.

It was all terribly good-natured – plenty of drums, whistles, pirates and calm, collected, restrained police. And we faced almost no counter-protests, just a few petrol-heads, with their lonely banner, shouting from Trafalgar Square. En route I met and chatted to a group from Cumbria who had had experience of global warming first-hand.

On the train back from Euston I heard Gordon Brown had welcomed 24 protesters, among whom Dave from Manchester (pictured) had been chosen by FoE's Director, Andy Atkins, to meet the PM. Mr Brown had seen the procession pass down Whitehall and had decided to invite representatives of the main participating organisations to state their case for demanding action on climate change. 50,000 people is a lot for a climate march, but in view of the seriousness of the issue, it's nowhere near enough. We've a long way to go – The Wave was just an initial ripple.



**Dave Coleman in Downing St after meeting Gordon Brown. Mr Brown later made a video podcast to express his 'strong support' of the demonstration**

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## Are You Ready to Flood for Climate Justice?

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Manchester FoE activists certainly were, reports Sarah. Six of us joined thousands of international protesters to join the Flood demonstrations at the Copenhagen climate summit. Georgia, Cat, Wendy, Ricky, James and I met other FoE activists at London St Pancras on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December. We travelled by Eurostar to Brussels where we were met by a convoy of coaches that took us to Copenhagen.

We had been due to arrive at 8:30 that night. However, not only were we delayed, but, when the coach reached the Danish border, we were stopped by German police who demanded to see our passports and search our luggage, as well as searching each of us individually. We finally arrived in Copenhagen at 5:30 on Saturday morning, freezing cold, tired beyond belief and shrouded in the darkness of an early winter morning. We caught the 8:30am train into Copenhagen to join the Flood, the march organised by FoE International. As with the Wave, the idea was to dress in blue and flood through the streets of Copenhagen – the flood symbolising the rising water levels that climate change will cause.

We met other activists at the Klimaforum, the alternative centre for the Copenhagen talks where workshops, seminars and lectures occurred and activists hung out. We flooded through the streets of Copenhagen with thousands of activists dressed in blue. The banners and props on display were creative and inspiring: blue dragons, mermaids and flags everywhere. Some of us played samba along the way. The Flood finished at the parliament square with a climate rally and international speakers inspired the crowds. In the afternoon over 100,000 people marched in unison in a second march – People First, Planet First.

We partied at the Klimaforum at a solar powered disco until the early hours, chatting to other activists, and, over a pint of local ale, planned how to save the planet.



**Manchester FoE at the Flood in Copenhagen – the samba band ready to join in the procession.**

Sunday was dedicated to sightseeing around Copenhagen. This was a fantastic weekend – Copenhagen is a wonderful city and it was an amazing event to be part of. The outcome of the talks was disheartening, but at a grass roots level there is a sense of a real international movement growing: one of hope, optimism and global solidarity leading to system change, not climate change!

## Copenhagen – What Actually Happened?

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For all the sound and fury, it's fair to say not much, reports Ben. Friends of the Earth and other campaign groups had been campaigning for a strong deal. The result of the negotiations, the Copenhagen Accord, was neither strong, nor was it a deal. Essentially, developed countries continued to refuse to pay for the clean-up and developing countries refused to sacrifice their aspirations for economic growth and prosperity. Yet the world's poor increasingly suffer the costs of this short-sightedness.

In Bali, two years previously, it had been decided that the objective of Copenhagen was to be a legally binding deal, setting out cuts essential to our common future. All that happened was that the Accord, with a very weak text, was 'noted'. Countries were then asked to associate themselves with the text and write their pledges

for cuts by 31 January. Even this deadline has been allowed to slip, leaving International Climate Change negotiations in an administrative limbo.

There are some interim talks in Bonn, in early summer, and the next major talks are in Mexico. There is yet time to propose the trajectory for greenhouse gas emissions following 2012 – when Kyoto runs out – but there is no longer a political process, the consensus-based system having been thoroughly disrespected by the major powers and the Danish conference hosts.

Nevertheless, there are two positives to take forward. This is the first time that world leaders have sat down and actually tried to debate climate change targets. It has finally arrived at the highest levels. Secondly, despite the failure to find agreement, there are increasingly strong pledges coming from both developed and developing countries.

Another key takeaway from Copenhagen is the growing strength of the social movements. While political leaders failed to find ideas, failed to find inspiration and failed to find common ground, across the city people came together in a show of unity, irrespective of the shameful, repressive policing. So going forward, it will be up to us to keep pressure on our government to stay the course of its commitments, irrespective of the outcome of the general election, and to continue to demand and rally around the cry for climate justice, giving leaders around the world an example of the will that they were so lacking in the cold Danish capital last December.

## An Evening With Ed Miliband:



Hosting Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change Ed Miliband's last public meeting before he made his way to Copenhagen was Manchester FoE's most prestigious moment of 2009, writes Catherine.

Ed Miliband had run a series of public debates across the country throughout the year to raise awareness of the climate summit talks.

Manchester was his last stop, on Tuesday 8 December, and, although we were thrilled to be

asked, the task was also a little daunting. FoE's Dave Coleman took the bulk of the workload, managing to convince Manchester Council, the Department of Energy And Climate Change, the Co-operative and the venue, Manchester Central, to work together. Several grey hairs later and he had managed to pull off a superbly run evening.

Meanwhile, the group took the opportunity to develop and extend our local networks, inviting voluntary and public sector organisations from Manchester with an interest in climate change to hold stalls at the venue prior to the debate.

Not only was this Ed's last chance to gather the views of the nation on climate issues, the evening also saw Manchester City Council launch its own plan to tackle climate change, entitled Manchester: A Certain Future – Our Collective Action On Climate Change.

With between 400 and 500 people in attendance, the event commenced with roving repartee from Phil Korbel before moving to a panel discussion chaired by John Harris of the Guardian. After a brief introduction from the speakers – Mike Childs, FoE's campaigns director, Sir Richard Leese, leader of Manchester City Council, and Len Wardle, Chair of the Co-operative – questions were taken from the floor.

Questions covered everything from peak oil to the challenges of behavioural change, and Ed did his best to address all the issues raised. Mike Childs gave a passionate but reasoned critique of the challenges Friends of the Earth felt we faced going into the Copenhagen talks and, although he was generally supportive of the government's efforts, he was not shy in pointing out where he felt they fell short.

Overall the evening was a success with a cross-section of ages, a good mix of questions, and some proper banter across the table. It was just a pity that our wide-eyed expectations at that time were not reflected in the summit's outcome...



## Transport Update: Chocolates, Deck Chairs and Polar Bears

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If people choose to cycle more and drive less, that's good news for stopping climate change and good news for our health, transport campaigner Graeme reports. The Transport campaign, under its 'Love Your Bike' banner, has been highlighting both of these angles. At our monthly cycle commute, Bike Friday, we've been calling for action on climate change. At the end of the November ride, we were joined by Oxfam's polar bear, and we waved off local Richard Morris on his way to cycle to December's Copenhagen conference. In January, we took up the 10:10 theme ([www.1010uk.org](http://www.1010uk.org)), pointing out that if someone switches to cycling for their commute just two days per month they can reduce their travel to work emissions by 10%.



**Oxfam's Polar Bear joins Bike Friday commuters in the run up to the Copenhagen climate conference. Richard (right of Polar Bear) cycled to Copenhagen.**

At Christmas time we sent a colourful Christmas card to Secretary of State for Transport, Lord Adonis, with our own version of the Twelve Days of Christmas. This was aimed specifically at making sure Greater Manchester does not lose out on investment in new train carriages.

When Valentine's Day arrived, we got soppy. We delivered (some by post, most personally by bike) heart shaped chocolates (vegan and fair trade, of course) to a selection of transport

officials, media people, health workers and national and local politicians including Council Leader Sir Richard Leese. The message was simple: if you cycle to work you can easily burn off the calories from the chocolate.

Alongside positive promotion of cycling, it's important we ensure that there are good facilities for cycling, and that cycling is integrated into the city's transport system. One prominent issue has been the carriage of bikes on the Metrolink. As it currently stands, there is a ban on taking any bikes on the service, with the small exception of folding bikes if they are fully encased. This is very limiting: imagine only being able to use a folding bike if you have to carry a hard case around with you.

In January, GMITA politicians voted for this ban to continue and Love Your Bike and the Greater Manchester Cycling Campaign decided that this was not satisfactory, especially since the transport authority has recently changed its name to the Greater Manchester *Integrated* Transport Authority. On 12<sup>th</sup> February, the morning of the committee meeting at which this decision could be reconsidered, a group of campaigners arrived at St Peter's Square Metrolink station with some objects that *are permitted* on the trams: an ironing board, a folding camping chair, some deck chairs and a folded cycle trailer. On the platform and the train, the campaigners took the opportunity to chill out in the deck chairs and catch up on some ironing. The video (available on our YouTube channel at [www.youtube.com/gmloveyourbike](http://www.youtube.com/gmloveyourbike)) is very amusing but also has a serious message, which is that it makes little sense to ban folding bikes on trams when other similarly-sized folding objects are allowed. Allowing bikes on trams, at off-peak times at least, would make many more journeys possible by public transport. The action received wide media attention including Manchester newspapers, local radio, the BBC website and the Guardian bike blog. GMITA has now agreed to carry out a review of the bikes on trams issue. We await their decision.

For more information about our cycling campaigning, please see [www.loveyourbike.org](http://www.loveyourbike.org).



Cat of Manchester FoE catches up with her ironing at St Peter's Square Metrolink station. The ironing board here is allowed on a tram, but the folding bike on the left has to stay home...

## Group Campaigns for 2010

On Saturday 6 February, Manchester FoE held a Strategy Day to decide on our campaigns for 2010. These are a mixture of old and new, national campaigns and local actions, aimed at MPs, councillors and the public.

### Get Serious About CO2

This campaign was very successful in 2009, leading to Manchester Council adopting a 41% target in emissions cuts over the period to 2020 in their document A Certain Future.

The focus of the campaign this year will be to encourage other councils around Greater Manchester to adopt the 40% target. Also we are asking Manchester councillors to support our call for Local Carbon Budgets by lobbying their local MPs to put pressure on the Local Government Secretary John Denham. We need to persuade him to introduce a nationwide scheme with local targets and financial support from the government.

### Fix The Food Chain

Manchester FoE led a very successful "food year" last year, and as a result 14 MPs from the Greater Manchester area signed EDM 845, *Deforestation, Climate Change and Livestock*. Also Lib Dem MP John Leech agreed to smash our piñata on World Food Day, Friday 16 October. For this year, we're going to give a big push to get a Sustainable Livestock Bill in Parliament. For the first part of the year, we will be lobbying our local MPs and persuading them to sign the new EDM 194 prior to the General Election. We will also ask people to see the much talked about new film, Food Inc., and we will be screening our own food films around springtime. Later this year, we have some exciting Meat Free events planned, so keep checking our digest and website for news!

### Election Campaign

We are also running an election campaign with the aim of increasing the public profile of environmental issues in the run-up to the General Election in May. The campaign will use the elections to raise awareness of issues surrounding sustainability with the public, political parties and their candidates, the media and business. We want to persuade MPs to make bigger commitments on environmental issues so we are going to be asking "the climate question" to all candidates, either at hustings or via sending them a questionnaire. We want us and everyone else to know and understand their policies on environmental issues so that we can all make the best decision when voting. If you do get to meet your candidates, why not ask them what they're going to do about climate change?

## Recipe – Chocolate Cake (vegan!)



We're all beginning to understand that eating less meat and dairy is good for the environment-but that doesn't mean we have to give up chocolate cake! Jonathan Berens provides this yummy recipe:

### For the cake

- 340g self-raising white flour
- 1 level teaspoon baking powder
- 30g cocoa powder
- 200 ml. natural syrup of fruit extracts or agave syrup
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 4 heaped teaspoons natural egg replacer powder ('No Egg' from Orgran)
- 200g margarine

### For the icing

- 75g cocoa powder
- 75g icing sugar
- 75g margarine

### To make the cake

- Sift the flour, cocoa and baking powder into a bowl and mix together.
- In another bowl, mix the natural egg replacer with 8 tablespoons of cold water. Add the syrup, vanilla extract and margarine and whisk.
- Pour the liquid ingredients into the first bowl in stages while stirring using dough hooks. Mix well so the batter just rolls off a spoon; if the batter is still too dry, add soya or rice milk as needed.
- Wipe a cake tin with a film of oil and coat it with flour. Pour the mixture into the tin and cook at 180°C for 35–40 minutes until a knife through the centre comes out clean.
- Allow to cool slightly and carefully transfer to a raised wire tray.

### To make the icing

- Mix ingredients with 1–2 tablespoons of boiling water.
- After letting the cake cool, coat the top and sides with the icing.



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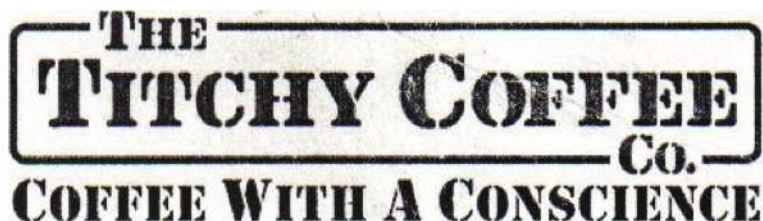
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be closed during May.**

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Exchange Square, Corporation Street, M14 3TR.

## Coming Up

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March, Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April and Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May

Clothing Swap Shop at 8<sup>th</sup> Day Café, Oxford Road. Drop off clothes from 5.45pm – swapping starts at 6.15. For information contact [cat@manchesterfoe.org.uk](mailto:cat@manchesterfoe.org.uk)

### Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March

'Ask The Climate Question' hustings – your chance to quiz the Manchester Withington parliamentary candidates on green issues at Didsbury Baptist Church.

### Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> March

Chorlton Big Green Festival – the second year of celebrating all things eco and ethical at St Clement's Church, Edge Lane, Manchester M21 9JF.

### Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May

Friends of the Earth Northern Gathering, Haworth Youth Hostel, Keighley: contact [rachel.hubbard@foe.co.uk](mailto:rachel.hubbard@foe.co.uk) for more information.

## Regular Events

Second Tuesday of the month 6:45 for 7pm.

Full group meeting. Green Fish Resource Centre, 46-50 Oldham Street. New members welcome.

Last Thursday of the month 6:45 for 7pm.

Campaigns meeting. Green Fish Resource Centre, 46-50 Oldham Street. All welcome. We split into groups to focus on our campaign areas: Get Serious, Fix the Food Chain, Meat Free Mondays, the Election campaign and Transport.

Last Friday of the month (except December)

Bike Friday. Rides from a range of locations in Greater Manchester to work, college or University. Starting points include Stretford Mall, Chorlton Library, Withington Library, Levenshulme Station and Prestwich Bury New Road / Scholes Lane. [www.bikefriday.org](http://www.bikefriday.org)

## New Faces at Manchester FoE

At the end of 2009, five of our group officers stepped down: Alice, our membership officer, Sam, one of the group coordinators, Jonathan, our IT officer, Graeme, our newsletter editor, and Dave, our media officer. Fortunately, they are still campaigning with the group! This means that we welcome lots of new group officers: coordinators Al and Cat, membership officer Georgia, newsletter editor Damian, office manager Patrick and IT officer Julian, so it's all change in the group with a lot of new faces! Contact details for the coordinators are:

- [alex@manchesterfoe.org.uk](mailto:alex@manchesterfoe.org.uk) (IT and Office)
- [sarah@manchesterfoe.org.uk](mailto:sarah@manchesterfoe.org.uk) (Publicity and Media)
- [cat@manchesterfoe.org.uk](mailto:cat@manchesterfoe.org.uk) (Volunteers and Membership); and
- [al@manchesterfoe.org.uk](mailto:al@manchesterfoe.org.uk) (Events)

Hello everyone! As the new editor of Manchester FoE's famous newsletter I would like to thank all the contributors to this issue for helping to bring the activities of the group to your attention – particularly when there has been so much in the news relating to climate change. If you have any contributions or ideas for future articles, please email me at [newsletter@manchesterfoe.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@manchesterfoe.org.uk).  
*Damian*

Manchester FoE is an award-winning campaign group working on issues relating to the environment and social justice. We campaign on issues with a local connection and also lobby for policy changes at local, regional, national and international levels. We work on a diverse range of issues including climate change, corporate responsibility, real food, trade justice, sustainable transport and aviation, and waste and recycling.

For more information about Manchester FoE and our campaigns, see [www.manchesterfoe.org.uk](http://www.manchesterfoe.org.uk)