

# Act!on

## Come and Join Our Free Lunch

*Help make food history at Manchester's first ever*

*Feeding the 5000 event, says Corin*

Summer 2013

On Saturday 15th June Manchester Friends of the Earth will be helping to run one of our biggest events to date, and we hope you can come and join us! We'll be serving 5,000 members of the public a free, hot, nutritious meal at Piccadilly Gardens in Manchester City Centre from 12noon until 4pm.

The meal will be made entirely of food that would otherwise have gone to waste. This isn't food that's gone off, or isn't safe to eat; it's food that is 'cosmetically imperfect' (wonky to you and me). It's fresh, nutritious produce that doesn't make it to the shops because it's too small, the wrong shape or the wrong colour. Over the course of the afternoon, we'll serve a free lunch to 5,000 people, offer free cooking lessons and share information about simple solutions to food waste.

We're working with the international campaign Feeding the 5000, which works to highlight how easy it is to reduce the unimaginable levels of food waste in the UK and around the world, and how governments, businesses and individuals can help. To deliver this massive event, we're also working with some amazing local groups, including FareShare North West, Cracking Good Food, FoodCycle and the Feeding the 5000 team.

**Come and join in!** It's no mean feat preparing, cooking and serving a meal for 5,000 people! We'll be chopping a whopping 750kg of vegetables on Friday 14th June, as well as having lots to do on the Saturday itself. If you can spare an hour or more on either day we'd love to see you there!



*A giant curry like this one coming your way shortly—just needs plenty of volunteers to make it happen!*

There are lots of different roles, the atmosphere will be great, you'd be supporting an incredible cause and you get a free meal—what more could you want?

We need volunteers to register in advance, as we need to know who's coming and how many people we have available to do which jobs.

If you would like to come along, please let us know ASAP by registering at [www.manchesterfoe.org.uk/feeding5000](http://www.manchesterfoe.org.uk/feeding5000)

If you have any queries, please drop us an email at [manchester@feeding5k.org](mailto:manchester@feeding5k.org)

### Inside this Issue:

Warmer Homes, Lower Bills	2
Manchester Timber and Firewood	3
The Worker Bees of Manchester	4
Oxford Road—Time to Go Dutch!	5

## Warmer Homes, Lower Bills, Cooler Planet

*Lib Dem MP Mark Hunter answers our energy questions at a public meeting, reports Damian*

Who's put off by a bit of snow and a cold wind? Not the people of Cheadle at any rate, who showed their interest in the energy debate by braving the chilly weather to come along to our *Energy We Can All Afford?* public meeting on Friday 22 March. Our hosts for the night were Cheadle Hulme Methodist Church, who have already supported green energy by installing solar panels on their roof and donating feed-in tariff revenues to a local charity.

The meeting, chaired by Dave Coleman from Cooler Projects and Manchester Carbon Literacy, focused on the themes of *Warmer Homes, Lower Bills, Cooler Planet*—a recognition that the measures needed to hit the UK's carbon targets will also lead to our houses and flats becoming easier (and cheaper) to heat.

Panel members Mark Hunter MP, Donna Hume from national Friends of the Earth, Lucie Newsam from Age UK Stockport and Martyn Williams from the Energy Bill Revolution campaign opened with their own views on the energy debate. Lucie said fuel poverty is a big issue for the elderly; the annual cost of illness from poorly heated homes is £1.36 billion, and existing programmes to address energy efficiency are inadequate. We need revenues from a carbon tax to 'help stem the growing cost of the cold'. Martyn agreed that carbon tax revenues should be returned to those in fuel poverty, and even if people switch to a minimum tariff they will be back at square one again within a year or two due to the rise in gas bills.

For FoE, Donna agreed that fuel poverty is a crucial issue, and we need an Energy Bill that 'gets us off the hook of rocketing fossil fuel prices'. The existing energy system needs a £100 billion upgrade over the next ten years, and decisions made right now will have 'very long-term consequences for the economy'. The most cost-effective way to meet our carbon targets is to decarbonise the energy sector by

2030. She said the Chancellor's current plan for new gas-fired power stations has been described as 'plan Z' by the Committee on Climate Change, and we need to get our MPs to back the clean power target put forward in Tim Yeo's amendment to the Energy Bill, and backed by last year's Lib Dem conference.



*Cheadle MP Mark Hunter (left) answers a question from the audience at Energy We Can All Afford?—to his left, Donna Hume and Dave Coleman*

Mark Hunter, the Lib Dem MP for Cheadle, said the Coalition's Green Deal is a 'huge step forward in helping to ensure warmer homes' and will 'fully support those attempts to have a target' in the Energy Bill. He was upbeat about the chances of achieving this, and reminded the audience that what were once fringe issues have now become centre stage.

Following this, Dave invited the audience to join in. A local councillor wondered whether we would need nuclear and thought wind power had 'extravagant claims' made on its behalf. Donna pointed out that the UK has so much renewable resources that we would only need to use one third of them to become a net exporter of electricity. Nuclear power stations can't be brought into service fast enough and are subject to cost increases. Mark has long been unconvinced of the role of nuclear and believes 'onshore wind is one of the cheapest forms of renewable energy', which is already on a large enough scale to power 2.5 million homes.

The next set of questions looked at community energy projects and whether we should be burning biofuels as part of the power sector.





## The Worker Bees of Manchester

*It's a hive of activity at Parrs Wood, says Steph*

On Saturday 18th May, Manchester Friends of the Earth proved we can get as busy as any bee, starting work on our first Bee World at Parrs Wood Environmental Centre.

Sixty Bee Worlds are being created all over the UK as part of Friends of the Earth's Bee Cause campaign. These wildflower meadows are needed to provide food and habitat for the UK's declining bee population. The team of 16 volunteers from MFoE and Action for Sustainable Living (AfSL) set to work on an area of land larger than 15x15 metres.

AfSL is an organisation based in Manchester, which supports projects that enhance the sustainability of local communities. When they heard about MFoE's Bee World project, they were more than happy to get involved.



*Manchester Withington MP John Leech backs our demand for a national Bee Action Plan*

Luckily, the rain held off all afternoon, but the soil was very damp and full of thick roots that needed to be removed to prepare it for wildflower seeds—a tough job, but the dedicated team worked hard to get the job done and were rewarded with delicious homemade cakes and hot tea. Local MP John Leech came to lend a hand to show he also supports the Bee Cause.

MFoE Campaign Lead Steph Lynch was delighted with the day's success: 'All the volunteers should be very proud of themselves. This meadow will help the biodiversity in the area.'



*Our volunteers after a hard afternoon's work raking, digging and weeding to prepare the Bee World*

The team returned on Monday 27th May to complete the sowing and will be visiting regularly over the year to check on the growing of both our seeds and the weeds! If you fancy helping out with the project, we would love to have you along—please get in touch!



*Steph sows the freshly cleared ground with wildflower seeds to get the Bee World off to a flying start!*

For more information about the Bee Cause see [www.foe.co.uk/beecause](http://www.foe.co.uk/beecause)

Email Steph on [steph@manchesterfoe.org.uk](mailto:steph@manchesterfoe.org.uk) for further information about the campaign locally and how you can get involved.

## Oxford Road—Time to Go Dutch!

*Love Your Bike asks for Dutch-style cycle routes on Oxford Road, says Pete*

Manchester has publicly stated that it aims to become a “world class cycling city” by 2017, yet, currently, cycling only makes up about 2–3% of journeys to work. Compare this to many cities in Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands where over 30% of all journeys are made by bicycle.

Research from cities worldwide has shown that the majority of people would like to cycle but are put off by concerns about traffic and safety issues. Such “interested, but concerned” people want safe cycle routes before they will cycle for everyday purposes. For more information, see <http://tinyurl.com/4typesofcyclists>

To increase the number of people cycling in Greater Manchester, Love Your Bike believes that Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) and Manchester City Council (MCC) need to develop high-quality cycle networks that are coherent, direct, attractive, safe and comfortable—or in other words: Go Dutch.

**“A bicycle way that is not safe for an 8-year old [or 80-year old] is not a bicycle way.”**

—Enrique Peñalosa

This June sees our opportunity to demand better cycling facilities on Oxford Road and in Manchester city centre as TfGM and MCC are consulting on the Cross City and Oxford Road bus priority schemes. The Oxford Road proposals will see most of the car traffic removed from Oxford Road from Whitworth Park all the way up to the Cornerhouse (Whitworth Street). The route will be reserved for buses, taxis, emergency vehicles, bicycles and pedestrians.

Love Your Bike is lobbying for ‘Dutch-style’ segregated cycle routes on Oxford Road (and elsewhere) and we have had some success in getting the general principle accepted. The recent Greater Manchester Cycling City Ambition bid stated that [on Oxford Road] “Dutch-style full segregation of cycle routes will

feature prominently along a 4 mile long flat thoroughfare.”



*Part of the proposed route for segregated cycle lanes, taken on the Dutch-themed May Bike Friday*

Love Your Bike supports the broad principle of the Oxford Road plans but believes that some of the proposed changes are definitely not cycle-friendly—such as the Hathersage Road junction and the Grosvenor Street contraflow cycle lane, as well as plans for Upper Brook Street. TfGM also need to be clearer about how they will introduce cycle-friendly routes in the City Centre.

The consultation runs until 26<sup>th</sup> June and there are a number of public events where you can see the detailed plans and ask questions.

Consultation documents are available at <http://tinyurl.com/oxfordroadconsultation>

You can contact the bus priority team for further information by email at [buspriority@tfgm.com](mailto:buspriority@tfgm.com), by calling the information line on 0300 123 1177, by visiting [www.tfgm.com](http://www.tfgm.com) or by writing to: TfGM bus priority, FREEPOST RRHE-RKUU-KSJY, Manchester M1 3BG.

### What happens next and what can I do?

- Love Your Bike will be submitting a detailed consultation response. Send us your comments. Our briefing will be available on [www.loveyourbike.org](http://www.loveyourbike.org) in mid-June.
- Find out more—check the plans online or visit one of the public events.
- Support the scheme. Send in your suggestions and comments to TfGM.



## Dutch-style Cakes

*As eaten on the 31 May "Time to Go Dutch"*

*Bike Friday event—makes 12 cupcakes*



### Ingredients

- 200 g plain flour, sifted
- 200 g caster sugar
- 4 tablespoons almond meal or more flour
- 1 teaspoon bicarbonate of soda
- 5 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon white vinegar
- 225 ml water
- 2 apples, thinly sliced into wedges
- Extra sugar and cinnamon for sprinkling

### Method

- Preheat oven to 180°C.
- Place ingredients in a large bowl, except the apples, extra sugar and cinnamon.

- Beat well with a whisk or electric beater.
- Divide the mixture among cupcake pans.
- Gently place three apple wedges onto the top of the mixture.
- Sprinkle a little extra sugar and cinnamon on the apple and bake for 15–20 minutes until a skewer inserted into the centre comes out clean.

*There are many great things happening all over Manchester across the seasons to help make sustainable food choices easier. One issue that has come up quite often is for recipe ideas that are quick, simple and delicious. Knowing there are plenty of cooks in Manchester who might like to share sustainable recipes, we thought we would make a call for these over the next year.*

*Following May's Vegetarian Week, we are inviting people to submit their own sustainable recipes for uploading onto the website and will offer a prize each season for the most delicious!*

Send yours in to [office@manchesterfoe.org.uk](mailto:office@manchesterfoe.org.uk)



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## Coming Up



### Saturday 15 June

Feeding the 5000. We will be serving a free curry to the public using vegetables that would otherwise have gone to waste. See front cover for more information. Piccadilly Gardens, central Manchester, 12 noon–4pm.

### Saturday 22 June

Celebrate Festival with MFoE stall focusing on bees and cycling, St Margaret's Social Centre, Brantingham Road, Whalley Range, 12 noon–6pm. If you would like to volunteer, contact [cat@manchesterfoe.org.uk](mailto:cat@manchesterfoe.org.uk)

### Thursday 11 July

A chance to meet Elías Díaz Peña from FoE Paraguay (also appearing at BASECAMP, see opposite). Green Fish Resource Centre, 46–50 Oldham Street, 6.45 for 7pm.

## Regular Events



Our **Full Group Meeting** is on the second Tuesday of the month at 6.45 for 7pm at Green Fish Resource Centre, 46–50 Oldham Street. This is the perfect occasion for new members to come and find out more about the group! On 11 June we will be preparing for the Feeding the 5000 event and on 9 July we will be discussing the High Speed 2 rail project.

For details of our **Campaigns Meetings**, see <http://manchesterfoe.org.uk/calendar/>. These are also held at Green Fish Resource Centre, 46–50 Oldham Street—usually at 6.45 for 7pm, but times may vary. All welcome. We split into groups to focus on our main campaign areas: Climate Change, Bee Cause, Transport, Food and Make It Better.

**Bike Friday** is on the last Friday of the month (not December). Rides from various locations in Greater Manchester to work, college or university. Starting points are Worsley/Monton, Blackley/Middleton (Rochdale Road/Victoria Avenue East), Stretford Mall, Chorlton Library, Withington Library, Levenshulme Station, Prestwich (Bury New Road/Scholes Lane) and Mersey Square, Stockport (**new**).

[www.bikefriday.org](http://www.bikefriday.org)

## Make the Trek to BASECAMP

Following on from the 60th anniversary of the first ascent of Everest, national Friends of the Earth has a BASECAMP of its own in the Peak District.

Instead of having a conference at a university campus, FoE activists will be gathering in the village of Hartington in Derbyshire. Guest speakers include columnist George Monbiot and Elías Díaz Peña from FoE Paraguay.

Accommodation is available at the Youth Hostel in Hartington, local B&Bs, a hotel and a campsite a couple of miles away.

FoE is providing shuttle buses to the site from Buxton and Derby train stations.

**When: Friday 12–Sunday 14 July 2013,**  
from **2pm** on Friday to **5pm** on Sunday.

**Book your place now!**

<http://tinyurl.com/foebasecamp2013>

## Manchester FoE Treasurer 2013

You may remember that the post of group Treasurer was still vacant at the time of the last issue.

We have now carried out an election to this post. Please welcome **Julian Dearlove** as Manchester FoE Treasurer for 2013.

[jools@manchesterfoe.org.uk](mailto:jools@manchesterfoe.org.uk)

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)

Manchester FoE is backing the City's climate change action plan **Manchester: A Certain Future** <http://www.manchesterclimate.com>