

Newsletter of Manchester Friends of the Earth

Act! On

Friends of
the Earth
Manchester

www.manchesterfoe.org.uk



CARBON DINOSAURS SUCCESS Page 3

"You can reduce the impact of your 4 wheels by car sharing, operating on 'cleaner fuels' or by taking simple measures such as servicing your vehicle regularly or driving smoothly instead of accelerating and decelerating wildly."

Ade Collins

[Read more from p. 7](#)

"Budget airlines have clearly changed our travel habits. In the age of Ryanair, easyJet and bmibaby we are wooed by incredible offers such as "fly for the price of a taxi" or even better "fly for just £1", making it possible for more and more people to fly abroad. But does it really?"

Kerstin Moritz

[Read more from p. 6](#)

February 2004

[REAL FOOD GUIDE ONLINE p. 5](#)



Who are Manchester FoE?

Manchester Friends of the Earth is a prominent pressure group working on campaigns relating to the environment and to social justice. We campaign on issues with a local connection, and also lobby for policy changes at the local, regional, national and international levels. We work on a diverse range of issues including sustainable transport, 'real food', climate change, waste and recycling, air quality, social exclusion, and trade.

A friend of FoE:

Name: Dave Coleman

Age: "That's a state secret! Actually I turned 40 just before Christmas."

Profession: "My wife and I run a business consultancy providing management training and coaching to business managers and advising on stress management."



How long have you been involved? "FoE? 17 years. Manchester FoE? A mere 12 months."

What is your number one environmental concern? "Climate Change is the area where we are on the brink of totally screwing-up the entire planet. I feel we have a responsibility to ourselves, to our neighbours and to our children to make responsible choices now."

What keeps you motivated? "The small "wins" we make every day. When another household goes organic or switches to sustainable electricity, or another resident writes in support of their local wind farm or starts their friends recycling, or someone new comes to a meeting and says 'right then, what can I do to help?'"



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JOIN IN!

Manchester FoE's Campaigns Centre is located in the basement of the Friends' Meeting House, The Quaker's Building, 6 Mount Street, behind Central

Library. To find the Campaigns Centre, take Bootle Street which is down the side of the Friends' Meeting House on the left as you at it. Ring the MFoE bell if the door is locked or enter and go down the corridor, turn left then immediate right and we're on the left. The Campaigns Centre is run totally by volunteers, so it is not always open.

Please ring us on 0161 834 8221 in advance if you wish to see someone.

Meetings: 7pm on the second Tuesday of the month in the Friends' Meeting House, generally in room 5.

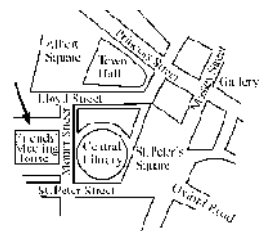
Manchester FoE, 6 Mount Street, Manchester. M2 5NS.

Telephone: 0161 834 8221. **Email:** office@manchesterfoe.org.uk. **Website:** www.manchesterfoe.org.uk

As a member you will get:

- £50% off a meal at Earth Café;
- £10% off selected purchases at Harry Hall Cycles;
- £10% off food and drink at Misty's Café;
- £10% off purchases at the Manchester branches of Field and Trek and The Outdoor Shop

Just fill in the membership form in the back cover and get involved!



Contributors to this issue: Linda Vettanen (Editor and Layout Design), Ali Abbas, Dave Coleman, Kerstin Moritz, Katy Shaw, Graeme Sherriff, Kate Simmons





We continue to pursue an unsustainable energy supply based mainly on fossil fuels, despite there being many feasible alternatives. Fossil fuels produce carbon dioxide which is instrumental in causing global change. We need to switch to greener fuels and use energy more efficiently.

Government Moves to Curb the Carbon Dinosaurs



After many months of work by Friends of the Earth and others, the Government has finally released its proposed targets to limit the amount of Carbon Dioxide emissions (and thus global warming) being caused by

UK heavy industry. This move will set a standard for other countries across the European Union to follow.

The Government's announcement, which addresses our obligations under the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS), requires affected UK industry sectors to cut carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions in two phases. In the first phase (2005-8) targets will be in line with an 8% cut in emissions compared to 2001 levels. The government is then expected to commit to tougher limits in the second phase (2008-12) in order to meet our national target of a 20% cut in carbon dioxide emission over 1990 levels by 2010.

Companies who fail to meet their emissions targets will have to pay for the extra CO2 they emit. Conversely companies who employ more efficient greener technology and beat their emissions targets, can sell their "spare" emissions capacity to companies who cannot meet the requirement through their own efforts. Thus there is a financial incentive for every company to be as efficient as possible and beat their target by as much as possible.

Roughly 2000 UK companies are included in the scheme, and the inefficient coal fired power stations, the "Carbon Dinosaurs" of our economy, will be the most affected sector overall.

Manchester Friends of the Earth has been lobbying both our local MPs and Patricia Hewitt (Secretary of State for the DTI) to set these ambitious targets and our campaigning work needs to continue. Manchester FoE has activities planned locally, nationally and at a European level and we are just about to announce our Climate Challenge 2004 Campaign. Want to do something to help? Have a look at our activities on the Action Page.

Dave Coleman

Stop Esso! Action in Manchester



Just before Christmas Staff at Esso's Salford Quays offices were given a "globally warm" welcome to work. As staff arrived on foot and by tram they were met by members of Manchester Friends of the Earth and

Greenpeace who personally presented them with copies of "Hotline" a specially published newsletter for Esso staff. Published in Esso's house style, Hotline set out the reasons why environmental groups are confronting Esso's refusal to acknowledge global warming. Many Esso employees



Stop Esso! in Salford Quays



Dave with Hotline

and the general public remain unaware of the company's appalling record of opposing work designed to address climate change, and Esso's (and its American parent Exxon's) active opposition of scientific research into climate change and their active campaigning against legislation designed to combat global warming. Manchester Friends of the Earth actively supports the Stop Esso! coalition and will be taking part in further Stop

Esso! initiatives over the coming months. If you would like to help Stop Esso! then join the national boycott of Esso petrol stations and buy your fuel elsewhere, and advise your friends to do the same.

Dave Coleman

Climate change campaign co-ordinator: Dave Coleman
email: dave@manchesterfoe.org.uk

"If opportunity doesn't knock, build a door."

Milton Berle 1908-, American Actor, Entertainer





A shift towards more sustainable modes of transport is good news for our health, communities and the environment, both locally and globally. Manchester Friends of the Earth campaigns for cycling, walking, alternative fuels and quality public transport to be at the heart of the way we get around.

A Century of Flight



The last months have been thrilling for our aviation campaign as an incredible number of things have happened! 100 years ago, on 17 December 1903 aviation pioneers,

Wilbur and Orville Wright made the first flights in a powered aircraft, not knowing how much their invention would change the world. Exactly a century later the Government published its Aviation Strategy for the next 30 years – in full knowledge, but complete ignorance of aviation’s downsides.

In October and November we urged Greater Manchester MPs to sign an Early Day Motion calling for a genuinely sustainable aviation policy. In total 120 MPs signed the EDM and we were very pleased to find four Manchester MPs among them. To raise awareness and provide more information to the public we updated our webpage, wrote numerous press releases, arranged an exhibition at the Central Library, spoke to the public and lobbied our MPs.

written in response to the plans for Manchester Airport's second runway and Manchester FoE gave out an 'alternative history of flight', stressing the environmental and social impacts of the industry.

Between then and the publication of the aviation White Paper two weeks later we made use of the media’s interest in the topic, sent out press releases and went for radio interviews. Greater Manchester Radio also visited Michael Gibson’s house to see what it’s like living under the flight path.



Aviation Action Day in St. Ann's Square

White paper stained

The White Paper was a shock for green campaigners and even the aviation industry was surprised by the scale of growth the Government supports. At least four new runways will be built within the next 25 years: a second at Stansted in 2011 – 2012 and a third runway and a possible Terminal 6 at Heathrow in 2015 – 2020 subject to environmental conditions concerning noise and air pollution. If Heathrow cannot fulfill the conditions, the building will happen at Gatwick, so either way it will be built. Birmingham and Edinburgh will also get new runways.

Manchester Airport, by far the largest airport outside the South East, is subject to massive development too. It does not need a new runway until 2015 but aims to double passenger numbers within the next 10 years and is likely to reach runway and terminal capacity constraints by then. The Government made clear it supports the principle of developing terminal capacity at Manchester Airport, subject to noise pollution, and significant work to improve surface access.

Manchester FoE will watch these developments closely and continue to campaign for more sustainable air travel and alternatives. If you are interested in joining us, to do some research, help design exhibitions, to talk to the public or your MP, please come along!

Kerstin Moritz

Aviation campaign co-ordinator: Kerstin Moritz
email: kerstin@manchesterfoe.org.uk



Kerstin Moritz, Michael Gibson and Graeme Sherriff at the Cathedral

Bluest skies

On the 8th December Manchester Airport and the City Council representatives celebrated the 100th anniversary of powered flying at Manchester Cathedral. On their way out they were confronted by Manchester FoE and poet Michael Gibson with reminders of the negative effects of aviation. Michael recited and sang his work, 'Silver planes in which bluest skies', which was

"The tragedy of life doesn't lie in not reaching your goal. The tragedy lies in having no goal to reach."

Benjamin Mays



Getting Down to Work in Longsight



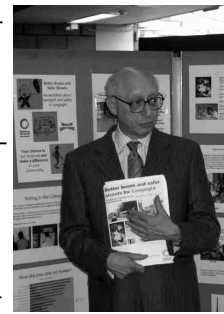
The ALL (Ardwick, Longsight and Levenshulme) Community Network has shown its support for FoE's recent work in Longsight by employing a person to support the Longsight and Area Transport Working

Group. This group was set up towards the end of last year to take forward the ideas that came out of FoE's community research in the first half of the year.

From English learning groups for Asian women to the Woodcraft Folk, community groups in the area were asked about what problems they had with transport in the area and whether they felt safe getting around. Our team also interviewed people on the street and in Longsight Library. In May a vote was held to prioritise the issues and in October our report, 'Better Buses and Safer Streets', was launched at a multi-lingual exhibition in the library to much acclaim. Roger Jones, chair of GMPTE, and Gerald Kaufman MP were both very enthusiastic about the accessible and fun ways we went about the consultation.

At the exhibition we launched our bus diary cam-

paign (which revealed that the average waiting time for the 53 bus is three quarters of an hour) and the transport working group. The latter is a way of involving Longsight residents in campaigning for change. This appointment is an opportunity to build up and resource the working group and is exactly what we wanted to achieve through the campaign: leaving a force for change within the community.



Gerald Kaufman MP

What else has the transport campaign been up to?

As the campaign co-ordinator, I have been attending the Transport Thematic Partnership meetings of the Local Strategic Partnership. This is an opportunity to influence Council policy. We ensured that environmental sustainability and social inclusion were in this year's action plan. We've also been making sure that our views are known elsewhere, including the Council's review meeting of last year's In Town Without My Car Day, and commenting on regional media on topical issues.

Graeme Sherriff

Longsight campaign co-ordinator: Graeme Sherriff
email: graeme@manchesterfoe.org.uk



It's time for Real Food. It's time to rethink artificial fertilizers and pesticides, and the wasteful transportation of produce across the world. Above all its time for a fair deal for consumers, producers and the environment. Real Food is GM free, organic and where possible locally sourced.

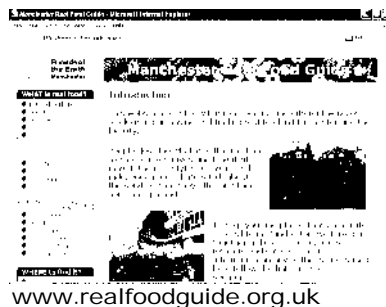
Virtually Real Food



A new website about real food, developed by Manchester Friends of the Earth, is now online at www.realfoodguide.org.uk.

The concept of an online real food guide was born last summer when Manchester FoE member Marion updated the printed guide that was produced in 2002. As well as describing what real food is, and the different ways of obtaining it, Marion also added a number of real-life case studies: people describe what it is like to shop using these alternatives and how it fits in with their lifestyles; and growers and independent distributors talk about the services that they offer and their personal approach.

However, instead of just producing another printed guide, we decided to convert Marion's work into an eye-catching online resource to make it easier for our readers to contribute, and help us to ensure that the



information in the guide is kept up-to-date.

The site is structured around four questions: what is real food? why eat it? how to get it? and where to find it? As well

as Marion's content, we publish articles by Colin Tudge, three times Glaxo/ABSW Science Writer of the Year, and Zac Goldsmith, editor of The Ecologist. And to help you get real, there's a handy directory of suppliers and retailers of real food in the Manchester area.

The official launch of the Manchester Real Food Guide website is planned for early March – keep an eye on www.realfoodguide.org.uk for more details.

Ali Abbas

Real Food campaign co-ordinator: Ali Abbas
email: ali@manchesterfoe.org.uk

"I look at victory as milestones on a very long highway."

Joan Benoit Samuelson (1957-, American Marathon Runner)





Budget Airlines - a bill to pay?

Budget airlines have clearly changed our travel habits. In the age of Ryanair, easyJet and bmibaby we are wooed by incredible offers such as "fly for the price of a taxi" or even better "fly for just £1", making it possible for more and more people to fly abroad. But does it really?



The Government's expansion plans for UK airports assume a three-fold increase in flights and most of this increase will be from holiday flights. Budget airlines already cater for a massive number of these

flights and there is no reason to assume this will change. But studies show it is not the majority of Britons who take advantage of these bargain flights but rather the wealthiest few. Even today when flights could hardly be cheaper, not everyone can afford to holiday abroad but the fundamental question is: are cheap flights really cheap?

"The costs haven't disappeared, they have been shifted elsewhere."

As a matter of fact, there is no such thing as a cheap flight. The costs of the flight haven't disappeared, they have simply been shifted elsewhere. Aviation fuel is not taxed like petrol and airline tickets attract no VAT unlike normal purchases. In addition all

the external costs of flight are simply disguised; the NHS health costs and infrastructure costs to those communities living in and around airports, the unemployment and other state benefits paid out in the UK as its "cheaper" for tourists to spend their holidays in Spain than Wales or Cornwall. And don't forget the price we are all paying for the effects of global warming, which is only being accelerated by the breakneck expansion in short-haul flights. The price continues to be paid by all of us, the Great British public, through the taxes we continue to pay to subsidise the airline industry.

Kerstin Moritz



Illustration: Kate Simmons

Do you have a comment to make? Write to this page by contacting newsletter@manchesterfoe.org.uk



Join the Debate

Manchester Friends of the Earth has several email lists you can join to keep up to date on the issues that interest you most. These are **mcrfoe** for general group issues, **mcrfoe_transport** for transport issues, **mcrfoe_climate** for climate change issues, **mcrfoe_waste** for waste and **mcrfoe_realfood** for ecologically sound food. In addition there is also an email list concentrating on our social inclusion work, named **mcrfoe_socialinc**.

To join any one of these lists send an email to majordomo@foe.co.uk with the following as the body text: **subscribe name_of_email_list**

For example, to get involved in the climate change

email list, the body of the message should say **subscribe mcr_climate**

If you want to subscribe to more than one group each should be written on a new line. Please note that we require people to have working up-to-date anti-virus software before going on any email list.

To send email to the group, please use **office@manchesterfoe.org.uk**.

Three New Co-Ordinators Elected!

Manchester Friends of the Earth was pleased to get three new group co-ordinators for this year. Graeme Sherriff will continue co-ordinating the group with Dave Coleman and Kerstin Moritz.

*"The obvious is that which is never seen until someone expresses it simply."
Kahlil Gibran(1883-1931, Lebanese Poet, Novelist)*





Ade Collins

- contesting congestion



What is your job title?

Greater Manchester Travel Co-ordinator

What does your job involve?

When I tell people my job title, they usually think I'm some sort of travel agent. So I've stopped mentioning that at parties.

I help schools and employers to implement weird and wonderful things called 'Travel Plans'.

So what is a travel plan?

A Travel Plan is a package of measures to encourage people to use alternatives to driving alone where they are able. This includes measures such as setting up a car sharing scheme, offering discounted bus tickets, or providing cycle parking and shower facilities. The idea of Travel Plan is to get people to make small changes to the way they travel, for example one journey a week. If everybody were to do that, the collective effect would be huge.

What motivates you in your work?

Looking out of the window and seeing all of the traffic. As you can imagine, chances are I will be motivated for some time to come!

How did you get into this sort of work?

By not managing to get a record contract. And visiting the Netherlands as a callow youth and seeing how much nicer it was to walk, travel and breathe over there.

What sort of environmental issues do you deal with?

The obvious ones are air and noise pollution, and the use of fossil fuels. But there are other issues too, such as the loss of habitat for wildlife as more and more roads are built. My work also tackles social exclusion; increasingly people without cars find themselves less able to access jobs, or get to shopping and leisure facilities.

Are 2 wheels good, 4 wheels bad?

Not at all. There are times when a car is a necessity. The car journeys that I am trying to reduce are the ones where people drive 200 yards to the paper shop, or drive to work when they have a high frequency bus



"It has been estimated that 20% of annual road mileage is spent getting lost."

service go past the end of their road.

The other thing to bear in mind is that you can reduce the impact of your 4 wheels by car sharing, operating on 'cleaner fuels' or by taking simple measures; servicing your vehicle regularly, driving smoothly instead of accelerating and decelerating wildly, checking your tyre pressure, removing your roof

rack when not in use, removing un-needed objects from your boot, and lastly planning your journey before you set off. It has been estimated that 20% of annual road mileage is spent getting lost !

How do you convince people to leave their cars at home and try more sustainable modes of transport?

By showing them that small changes can be made easily, and that this can often save them time and money, and improve their health.

What's wrong with the world?

Not enough empathy, not enough open-mindedness. If everybody respected the views of others, regardless of whether they agreed with them, there would be no conflict, and very little suffering. That, and Pop Idol.

Interviewed by Graeme Sherriff

"We must not, in trying to think about how we can make a big difference, ignore the small daily differences we can make which, over time, add up to big differences that we often cannot foresee."

Marian Wright Edelman(1939-, American Lobbyist on Behalf of Children)



If you have...

...5 minutes Find out more about the Stop Esso! coalition, get a free car sticker, or order a Stop Esso! t-shirt at <http://www.stopesso.com>

...15 minutes Change your electricity tariff to a renewable one, and possibly save money into the bargain! By switching to an electricity supplier that produces power from a renewable source such as wind power, wave power or biomass, you can use electricity without contributing to global warming, expand the demand for green electricity and take away profits from the companies still investing in the old polluting technologies. http://www.foe.co.uk/campaigns/climate/press_for_change/choose_green_energy/index.html

...a while longer Write to or email your MP your views on climate change http://www.foe.co.uk/campaigns/climate/press_for_change/carbon_dinosaurs/cockenzie_power_station.html#action

Take action!

Wednesday 25 Feb Manchester Friends of the Earth Campaigns Meeting 7pm, Friends' Meeting House, 6 Mount Street

Monday 1 - Sunday 14 Mar Fairtrade Fortnight This year's theme is a celebration of quality, both quality of life for the producers, and the top quality of the products Info: (020 7440 7676, www.fairtrade.org.uk)

Tuesday 2 Mar Manchester Friends of the Earth planning meeting 7pm, Abercrombie Pub, Bootle Street

Tuesday 9 Mar Manchester Friends of the Earth campaigns meeting 7pm, Friends' Meeting House, 6 Mount Street

Wednesday 10 Mar The NW Regional Transport Strategy 5:30pm, lecture room G33, Architecture & Planning Building, University of Manchester, Oxford Road. Discussion with Roy Newton, North West Regional Assembly. Transport seminar series. Info: (David.Ling@umist.ac.uk)

Wednesday 24 Mar Manchester Friends of the Earth campaigns meeting 7pm, Friends' Meeting House, 6 Mount Street

Tuesday 30 Mar CN4M Annual Forum 5:30pm, 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 (0161 237 9309, cn4m@cn4m.info)

Saturday 8 May Vegan Festival 10:30-5pm, Sachas Hotel, Tib Street.

Stalls on all aspects of the vegan diet. Info: Realfood (0845 458 0146, nwvf@realfood.org.uk)

Thanks to Networking Newsletter for the calendar information!
www.networkingnewsletter.org.uk

Manchester Friends of the Earth Membership Form

To join Manchester FoE, please complete the details on the form below and post to Manchester Friends of the Earth, 6 Mount Street, Manchester, M2 5NS. Financially, it helps if you can take out a standing order – this means you pay a fixed amount on a regular basis, either monthly or annually. Standing orders mean that we can predict how much money is coming in and plan better. To take out a standing order, only complete the details below, sign it and return to us at the above address. Thank you for your support.

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Telephone Number:

Please tick an appropriate rate:

£3 unwaged ___ £6 low waged ___ £12 waged ___ £20 groups ___ I enclose an additional donation of £ _____

For standing orders:

The name on the account:

Branch sort code:

Your bank account number:

Your branch name and address:

Instructions to the bank

Please pay the sum of £ _____ on the _____ (day/date) of each month/year (delete as appropriate) until further notice to 'Manchester Friends of the Earth' account number 27187308, sort code 72-00-01, bank address Girobank, 62 Hagley Road B16 8PE.

Signed

Dated