

President of MET becomes Liverpool's first Citizen of Honour

Professor Tony Bradshaw founder and president of M.E.T. Merseyside Environmental Trust has been made Liverpool's first Citizen of Honour.

He was presented with the award by the Lord Mayor, Cllr Steve Rotheram and he is thrilled by the civic recognition.

Such is the international acclaim for his work he was elected a Fellow of the royal Society in 82. His other distinctions include being the Founding Chair of the British Ecological Society, membership of the Nature Conservancy Council and the National Urban Forestry Unit..

Prof Bradshaw worked in the university's Botany department for 20 years, and is published extensively on the restoration of derelict and contaminated land. He has presented findings to national governments and councils across the world in public inquiries on the subject. He was involved in the initial



establishment of the International Garden Festival site in 1984, and has been monitoring the site since.

More recently, he has been involved as vice chair of the Friends of St James's Gardens group. The group have work for the last three years restoring Liverpool's oldest public park, which lies in the shadow of the Anglican Cathedral. The gardens now transformed into a tranquil oasis are being used for this year's Shakespeare Festival. .

Tony has tirelessly campaigned over the years to create a quality environment for the people of Merseyside.

He has also received a lifetime achievement award from Comtecha at their recent Annual General Meeting.

Everyone here at MET are so thrilled that these prestigious awards have been given to Tony. He is a remarkable man and we are so proud and thankful that we have all been blessed with his kindness, knowledge and wisdom over the years.

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Special points of interest:

website (<http://www.nsalg.org.uk>) NSALG say: 'Each allotment authority decides for itself how much of its resources to devote to allotments. However, if an authority believes there is a demand, it has a statutory duty to provide a sufficient quantity of plots and to let them to people living in its area. If local people feel there is a need for allotments which is not being met, they can get together a group of any six residents who are registered on the electoral roll and put their case to the local authority'

Annual open water 4 mile race



For the tenth year I was back to leap tentatively into Liverpool's Salthouse Dock, it was not tentative due to the rubbish as you may think but so as not to disturb the local wildlife of jellyfish, crabs, stickleback to name a few of the myriad of marine wildlife that have made this dock their home. My swim progress was slowed by

the sun's rays breaking the water surface, the vivid clarity of the water and the creatures I saw along the way..

Ten years ago the water was murky and the only wildlife I encountered was the odd jellyfish, now the dock is a premier tourist attraction and Open Water swim train

centre. As a swimmer whether your reason was to compete or complete the race the resounding agreement from all swimmers was the quality and clarity of the water. This provided an enjoyable and satisfying swim. Here's to more training swims and to next year's race. By: Kevin Saunders

"Nothing tastes as good as something you've created"

Growing, growing, gone....

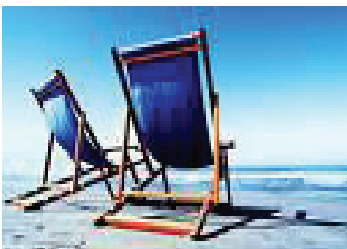
Allotments are certainly back in demand, trouble is, developers are also keen on our city plots. There is therapeutic value in digging, hoeing, weeding and growing, a local Refugee Support Project established by Margrit Ruegg has helped people find some kind of inner peace through allotment work, whilst avoiding

enforced idleness demanded by the asylum process.

Somewhere Else project is also making good use of allotment land, growing vegetables for use in their kitchens when they offer freshly baked bread and soup twice a week in their centre on Bold Street. Community

Groups throughout Merseyside are now looking at ways to reclaim land earmarked for future development to create a veritable feast of garden produce. This makes good use of the land for digging, planting and harvesting until appropriate planning approval is given which can take years.

Quality Beach Awards



Ainsdale and Southport have won a Quality Beach Award for being well managed. The beaches are improving and now more than ever people are taking holidays here. Whether the change has come through more expensive air fares or

peoples attitudes to their environment it is good to see more and more families enjoying what our coastline has to offer. Caravan and camping holidays have seen a dramatic increase this year and cleaner beaches certainly are attracting

many more visitors. With this kind of continued improvement there is every chance our beaches will be in line for Blue Flag Awards in the future and rekindle a passion for traditional beach holidays in this country.

Bees are disappearing from our countryside

Bee colonies throughout the country are plagued with diseases that are literally wiping them out. The government have been asked to undertake research over the next 3 years to see what can be done to alleviate this threat that is destroying our bee population.. In January the British Bee Keeping Association

warned that the threats were so great that if urgent action was not taken, honey bees would disappear completely from Britain by 2018, causing "calamitous" economic and environmental problems. Without the presence of bees, much of our agriculture would be impossible, and this is a

sobering thought right now, as feeding the world is suddenly becoming more difficult because of rising demand and the transfer of much crop production into biofuels, especially in the US. Immediate action needs to be taken to avoid this economic and ecological disaster in the making.



Transition South Liverpool: Progress so far

The 'Transition' group has a 'core group' with sub-groups: community, energy, media, composting, transport, local economy, local food. The group has created links with many different organisations in Merseyside, including many links with other & new transition groups. Initially, the group showed several films: 'The End of Suburbia', 'The Power of Community', 'The Inconvenient Truth'. Since then there have been regular talks on various sub-

jects: 'Contraction & Convergence' (Tom Barker, University of Liverpool), 'Growing Food in the City' (Don Headey and Ruth Jacobs, Liverpool Organic Gardeners), Rob Hopkins (founder of Transition movement), 'Adjusting to Climate Change and Peak Oil - What can we learn from the Totnes experience?' (Neil Longhurst), 'Backyard and community composting' (Don Headey & Ruth Jacobs,

'New Hope for Changing World' (John Papworth). In addition, various project and planning days have been held to generate and discuss ideas, such as a role-play discussion on 'To shop or not to shop at supermarkets?', plus an involvement with a webcast at FACT on 'The end of my World'. Future talks and discussions are planned, see website for details: <http://transitiontowns.org/Liverpool-South>.

"Excellent way of getting involved & having your say...."

Alarmed as children are left flummoxed by test on the natural world

Children have lost touch with the natural world and are unable to identify common animals and plants, according to a survey

Half of youngsters aged nine to 11 were unable to identify a daddy-long-legs, oak tree, blue tit or

bluebell, in the poll by BBC Wildlife Magazine. The study also found that playing in the countryside was children's least popular way of spending their spare time, and that they would rather see friends or play on their computer than go for a

walk or play outdoors. Fergus Collins, of BBC WM, said the results "reinforce the idea that many children don't spend enough time playing outdoors and enjoying wildlife - something older generations might have taken for granted".



Working together to protect the Environment on Merseyside

Merseyside Environmental Trust

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The Trust was founded more than 21 years ago as 'an Alliance of Public, Private and Voluntary Agencies and Individuals working for the improvement of the Outdoor Environment in Merseyside' **MET** still strives to raise environmental awareness across the region by dialogue, organizing public events and meetings in partnership with other like minded groups

MET has representation on panels and advisory groups that make decisions about our environment such as:

- * Airport expansion
- * Transport & Health
- * Sustainability
- * Mersey Estuary
- * North West Environment Link
- * Liverpool Community Environment Network
- * Environment Agency.... *And many others*

MET works with schools and community groups to improve their local environment through Environment Wee offering practical help, funding and publicity advice

MET has produced guidance to living lightly and developing environmental policies.

MET is funded through subscriptions and donations and in kind by the University of Liverpool.. We are continually looking for new supporters committed to the need for an independent environmental voice in Merseyside.

Back Page Story Headline



Dates for your diary...

Merseyside Environmental Trust
A.G.M Weds 12th November.

Venue to be confirmed....

Mersey Basin Week 3-12th Oct
contact <http://www.merseybasin.org.uk/> for further details.

M.E.T will be introducing their revised Membership details in the next issue of MetMail & on the website www.metnet.org.uk

Also in the next issue of MetMail will be information on next years Year of the Environment to be hosted by Liverpool City Council following this year's Capital of Culture.

Please contact us if you have any points of interest you feel would benefit the wider community in relation to current environmental

topics that are local to Merseyside. Or perhaps M.E.T can support you in some way.

We have a host of materials to aid individuals and groups working together to improve their local environment.

We also work extensively in local schools and are keen to help you with any new initiatives you feel would benefit your students.

So don't delay email Lyn today on: lyn.lowther@ntlworld.com