

MetMail



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Are you networked yet?

Each district CVS has been funded to encourage the establishment of network representing all sectors of the community. This will in turn be divided into specific groups such as young people's network, environment and other groups. The aim is to create a comprehensive database of all groups and associations, and to create forums in which they can discuss relevant local issues. To make sure you have your say, contact your local CVS today and get networking.

MET COMES OF AGE 24TH October 2002

This year marks the eighteenth birthday of MET, and an updated chronicle of our history and achievements is being prepared in time for our AGM on 13th November 2002, copies of which will be available in libraries, or by contacting MET by the usual channels.

MET has weathered many storms, and has stayed firm during changes in national and local government, and an onslaught of new initiatives and directives. 10 years after Rio- and, just a few weeks on from Johannesburg- MET has continued to champion the aims and objectives of LA21, and at every stage has encouraged the adoption of the "Think Globally, Act Locally" ethos.

MET will continue to support community initiatives across the region, and this issue highlights some of the great work that is going on out there, in schools and community groups.

Turn to the back page of this newsletter, for further details of membership of MET and forthcoming events.

!! !! !! Stop Press!! !! !!

What better way to mark such a momentous occasion than with a major event? -:

MET, in partnership with St Helens MBC are hosting a seminar on Thursday 24th October at St Helens College (11am-3-15pm)- entitled "Beyond the Summit – Making Johannesburg Work"

It will discuss the implications of the outcomes of the summit and act as a springboard for local action. Participants will include those that have attended the conference and a variety of representatives from environmental groups and local authorities, as well as individuals from across the region.

Contact MET today, for further details, and to provisionally reserve your place.

Our Dying Seas?

According to the latest report (June 2002) from The Wildlife Trust, our seas are under serious threat, and there is a lack of any coherent plan or legislation to tackle this problem.

The facts are frightening:

- **COD – our most popular fish is now commercially extinct in the North Sea.**
- **In the first months of 2002, 500 dead whales, dolphins and porpoises were washed up on the coasts of Devon, Cornwall and Dorset, mainly the victims of net entanglement.**
- **Protected sites such as Strangford Lough in Northern Ireland are still being damaged.**

For more information and a copy of this report contact the Marine Policy Team at The Wildlife Trust on 01636 677711 or via their website www.wildlifetrusts.org

Allotments in Decline

In 1940, when the country was urged to “Dig for Victory”, Britain was home to 1,500,000 allotments. 60 years on, there are an estimated 250,000 active allotments in use.

Trevor Oakley’s interest in allotment gardening has led to his conduction of a survey to find out the “state of allotment sites in the UK in 2002”. If you have an allotment, Trevor needs to know the following:

1. Name and location of site.
2. Total number of plots that could exist on the site.
3. Amenities available (e.g. taps, hut etc.)
4. Number of plots let/vacant that are clean, let/vacant that are unclean and plots that are unlettable
5. Rent (full/half/concessions)

Send this info to Trevor at 37 Kimberley Grove, Seasalter, Kent CT5 4BA

Tjoakley@aol.com

Paint it Green

Community groups and associations that have premises are faced with the uphill struggle of maintenance and wear and tear on their buildings. This can prove to be costly, and in addition, many materials are not environmentally friendly.

However, all is not lost, as there are regional and local organisations that can help. Community Re>Paint schemes operate throughout the UK (including Liverpool), recycling excess paint for use by community and voluntary organisations. Leicester based Environ operates a timber recycling service, reclaiming and reusing unwanted wood. Check out their websites for more information-

www.communityrepaint.org.uk
and
www.environ.org.uk

SUSTAINABLE CONSTRUCTION

A new guide has been produced by Somerset Trust for Sustainable Development which offers help and advice in the most sustainable way to improve you centre.

The pack contains regularly updated clear and practical information on topics such as design for energy and water efficiency, design for ultra low running costs, and the use of local materials, environmentally friendly building products and local labour.

Supported by Shell Better Britain Campaign, the Trust aims to establish sub-regional partnerships to train, educate, promote and demonstrate sustainable construction and make it the norm for construction in the area by 2010.

For more information and to obtain a copy of the pack (priced at £10-00) telephone 01458 259 400, or on the web at

www.sustainablehousing.org.uk

WHATS IN YOUR BACKYARD?

If you’re thinking of applying for funding from a landfill tax distributor, you may need to check how far your location lies from the relevant operators landfill site. How do you do this? Easy. Visit What’s in your backyard? Section of the Environment Agency website and enter your postcode in the box provided. As well as providing information on issues such as levels of pollution, river quality and flood warning areas the section now highlights local landfill sites. www.environment-agency.gov.uk/ And follow the links to *what’s in your backyard?* section.

ZERO WASTE in the UK –

According to a recent report from GreenPeace, this is not just a dream. Economist Robin Murray sees the increase in Zero waste in Multinational Companies as the influence to cities around the world.

Toyota is aiming for zero waste by 2003, and the Australian capital Canberra is aiming to become the first city to adopt a zero waste policy (for 2010), and has been inspired by the zero waste movements in New Zealand and California. In Britain, Bath and North East Somerset Council is the first UK local authority to aim for zero waste.

The implementation of Europe’s new rules on Car Manufacture’s assuming responsibility for vehicle disposal should also influence the increase of recycling in that sector. Volkswagen are now making doors out of biodegradable plant based plastics and Ford have been in discussion with suppliers with a view to designing cars that can be disassembled and the parts used elsewhere at the end of the lives.

Improved waste schemes have led to a 70% reduction in landfill in Edmonton, Canada, whilst many US cities now recycle over 50% of their waste.

Let hope the UK takes note. www.greenpeace.org.uk

Local Issues

CREATE – the Liverpool (and London) based recycling project, hold regular open days for you to find out more about this highly successful social business. They also offer training opportunities. Contact Create on 0151 488 1748 or www.createuk.com

WORLD TRANSPORT POLICY AND PRACTICE – a quarterly journal, edited by Prof. John Whitelegg, is available, published for advocates, activists, academics and advisers – telephone 01524 63175
www.ecoplan.org/twpp/wt-index.htm

SANDON DOCK DECISION

United Utilities have successfully appealed against an Abatement Notice served by Liverpool City Council under the Environmental Protection Act 1990. The notice was served in September 2001, alleging statutory nuisance, following claims from local residents and businesses alleging unpleasant odours and nuisance caused by the Wastewater Treatment Works at Sandon Dock. John Maxwell of Hill Dickinson said after the decision that “This is an important decision, not only for United Utilities, but also for Local Authorities which monitor their activities... Their obligation, once the material is received, is to treat it. However, they are subject to a strict control regime under the water Industry Act 1991, which does not exist for other trade, industrial or commercial users.

COMMUNITY AND EDUCATION NEWS

May 2002 saw yet another successful Environment Week - thanks to the generosity of our sponsors. Grants totalling over £5000 were awarded to schools and community groups who successfully applied for funding via the project grants fund. The list is as follows: -

Rivington Primary School (St Helens) – Litter Project £250-00

Liscard Primary School (Wirral) “Eco School Wildlife Project £100

Formby High School Conservation Team (Sefton) – Natural Reed Filter Bed £ 250-00

Chatham Place Nursery School (Liverpool) – Planting Project £250-00

Lister Junior School (Liverpool) – Tree and Shrub Planting Project £100-00

Cambridge Nursery School (Sefton) – Butterfly Garden and Willow Seats £200-00

Holy Trinity Primary School (Sefton) – Allotment Project - £250-00

St Augustine of Canterbury High School (St Helens) – Tree Planting Project £100-00

St Johns Infant School (Wirral) – Creating a Perfume Garden £100-00

South Liverpool Environmental Network (Liverpool) – Coach Tour Along Mersey £50-00

Friends of Bowring Park – (Knowsley) Heritage Fayre £50-00

Carr Mill Junior School (St Helens) Planting and seating Project £100-00

Trees Community Centre (St Helens) Fencing Project £250-00

Raleigh International with Friends of Royden Park (Wirral) – Courtyard Improvement Project £200-00

Farnborough Road Infants (Sefton) – Sensory Area £100

Shorefields School (Liverpool) – Water Feature and Container Garden £200-00

St Columbus Primary School (Knowsley) Renovation £200-00

Molyneux Drive Allotment Society (Knowsley) Composting Project £300-00

St Albans Catholic Primary (Wirral) – Plants and Planters £100-00

East Prescott Road Nursery (Lpool) – Environment Day £200-00

Bellrive School (Lpool) – Pots and Plants Project £200-00

Bootle High School (Sefton) Composting £250-00

Garston Cof E Primary (Lpool) – Grounds Improvement £200-00

King David Primary School (Lpool) – Shrub Project £200-00

Watergate Special School (Lpool) – Sensory Garden £200-00

Holly Lodge School (Lpool) Litter Project £50-00

Poulton Primary (Wirral) – Wildlife Project £100-00

St Augustines Catholic Primary School (Lpool) – Nature garden £200-00

Friends of Dovedale Infants School (Lpool) Jubilee Garden £200-00

Well Done to all those who took part. The date of Environment week 2003 will be announced in the January Edition of MetMail.

Check out the MET website on METNET.ORG.UK

MEMBERSHIP

If you are interested in the work of MET and would like to join, fill in your details below, and mail it to the address shown on the front of this newsletter.

Rates are as follows:

Individuals

Unwaged £5-00
Waged £10-00

Voluntary Organisations

With paid staff £20-00
Without paid staff £15-00

Schools £10-00

Local authorities
£100-00

Name

Address.....

.....

.....

.....

Postcode
.....

Tel number
.....

Fax /
email.....

I wish to become a member
of MET, I enclose my annual
subscription of

£.....

My interests are

Energy
Recycling
LA21
Regeneration
Transport
Volunteering
Other

MET MEMBERS UPDATE...

MET's MIRACULOUS MIDSUMMER RECEPTION! –

In what was an otherwise miserable summer, MET were bestowed with a beautiful evening for their Midsummer Reception on Thursday 11th July at the National Wildflower centre, Court Hey Park. Over thirty members joined us for an enjoyable evening that included good wine, an excellent buffet and an entertaining talk and guided tour by Landlife founder Grant Luscombe. A great time was had by all, and from the response of those that attended, this could well become an annual event – watch this space!

Executive Elections and AGM

Yes it's that time of year again. Letters calling for nominations to the Executive Committee will be landing on your doormats very soon (if they haven't already arrived). MET is making a determined effort to get more members involved in the day to day activities of the Trust. New people bring new ideas and that is exactly what MET wants. Don't just let somebody else decide how the organisation should be run, and what issues we should be concentrating on, get involved and have your say. Nominations must be received by Friday 1st November. Results will be announced at the AGM on Wednesday 13th November (details to follow)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

The Orchard Revival – Where are we now?	Saturday 28 th September Norton Priory 10am -4pm Tel: 01244 376333
Plant That Tree and Help it Grow	Saturday 12 th October 2002 Cheshire Landscape Trust 01244 376333
Apple Day	Sunday 20 th October 2002 Norton Priory 01244 376333
Beyond the Summit St Helens & MET	Thursday 24 th Oct St Helens College Tel 794 3137
MET AGM	Wednesday 13 th November @5.30pm Dept of Civic Design, Lpool Univ. 0151 794 3137 for details.

**The Next issue of MetMail will be distributed in
January 2003**

**If you have any articles that you think may be of
interest to our readers, or if you have a group or
association that you would like to tell us about, let
me have your articles by Friday 29th November
2002**

MET is supported by sponsorship and donation, and in kind by The University Of
Liverpool