

# MetMail



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What's on?

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## MERSEYSIDE ENVIRONMENT WEEK 2003

This year's project will take place from Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May – Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> June

- Register your event for inclusion in our Environment Week Special Newsletter (Due out 28th April) - send MET details of your project – what you plan to do, whether or not you need volunteers etc by Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March.
- Grants are available up to a maximum of £500, application forms are available from Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March, and the closing date is Friday 11th April.
- So don't miss out, let Merseyside know what your school or community group is doing to improve their local environment and apply for funding to help you do it!

**Start Planning Now!**

## BEYOND THE SUMMIT 24<sup>TH</sup> October 2002 – A Conference Review by Prof. Tony Bradshaw

It seemed very appropriate for MET to have one of its LA 21 meetings to ponder over what was discussed at Johannesburg and to consider what we on Merseyside should be doing 'to make Jo'burg work'. Thanks to generous support from St Helens Council and an invitation from the College, it was held in St Helens on October 24th. By putting a lot of energy into contacting people by email, there were over 100 participants from all over the NorthWest - a record for our meetings on sustainability.

It was opened by Chris Mahon, Director of the Cheshire Wildlife Trust, who had been at Jo'burg. He immediately disabused us of the negative impressions put out by the media – a lot of hard work and excellent decisions had been made. Of course everyone would have liked the decisions to be firmer. But, we should be impressed that the countries of the world had sat down and decided on a large number of practical steps they were going to take together – such as to make universal provision for sanitation by 2015; for clean water by 2020; for biodiversity protection by 2010 and to cease production of ozone-destroying chemicals by 2010. The stumbling block was the reduction of CO2 emissions – on this difficult subject there was universal agreement to work on it but alas no firm agreement on a timetable.

It was therefore an excellent idea to have three speakers under 21 with 2 under 12 as sustainability is about what we are going leave for the next generation and then those that follow. Laura Simpson and Felicity Laloo from West Kirby Grammar School had won themselves places at Jo'burg. They may have seen little of the high-powered politicians, but they were certainly able to tell us in an orchestrated presentation what they are hoping for. Jennifer Evans, a Liverpool University student took this further by asking realistically whether there were not too many promises – she would have been happier if she thought she would see them achieved.

Richard Sharland from Groundwork was the special guest, because he had opened the meeting organised by MET ten years ago about Rio. In an inspiring contribution he asked us not too overlook the amazing progress that had been made over the two world conferences, progress that at one time would have been unthinkable. Sustainable development is now a well-understood concept. But we have embarked on a long journey, in which each of us has to decide how we are going to get involved. Richard offered us three choices - practical action, achieving political change, or education. The challenge facing us is to learn to live differently and understand what it is to be a global citizen.

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**Turn to page 3 to meet Chris Hennessy the Liverpool Environmental Network Co-ordinator.**

## Check out the MET website on METNET.ORG.UK

### BEYOND THE SUMMIT – THURSDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, ST HELENS COLLEGE, ST HELENS A MESSAGE FROM MICHAEL MEACHER (edited)

I commend the Merseyside Environment Trust, and partners for organising this conference - providing the chance to take stock of Johannesburg, consider what it means locally, and where to go from here. The Rio Earth Summit ten years ago was a turning point. We all know the outcomes - Agenda 21, and international conventions to address global problems such as climate change and biodiversity loss. And progress since then has been made - both internationally, nationally, and all the levels below. But in the run up to the Summit in Johannesburg it was recognised that overall progress had been slow, and that the momentum for change over the last 10 years had been lost. Our vision for the Summit was not to renegotiate the words we all signed up to in Rio and other Conferences since. But to move the agenda forward: from words to concerted action and implementation.

I believe at Johannesburg we succeeded in this aim. The Summit has reaffirmed, reinvigorated and reinforced the international community's commitment to sustainable development, and reinvigorated the Rio Earth Summit agreements as well as the UN Millennium Development Goals on poverty eradication. I know there are some who were disappointed with the outcome and do not feel it goes far enough. But over 180 countries signed up to the agreement we reached and I believe that agreement will make a real difference to the lives of the poorest people on the planet, and to the health of the planet itself.

We secured good outcomes on many issues. We agreed a new target to halve by 2015 the number of people living without basic sanitation. There are new targets and timetables on chemicals and biodiversity, marine protection and fish stocks. The Summit also agreed action to increase access to energy and urgently increase the global share of renewable energy sources, as well as develop a framework of programmes to accelerate the shift towards more sustainable production and consumption. But, one of the most significant outcomes from Johannesburg was the recognition that all sectors of society must be involved if we are to achieve sustainable development. This idea of partnerships is a concept with which we are familiar with here in the UK, but for the first time it is embedded in the UN system.

Our next review of progress towards sustainable development, which will be out early in next year, will include further details of how we intend to take Johannesburg forward. Johannesburg is not the end of the process, but just the start. Kofi Annan said when he closed the Summit - '...we have to go out and take action. This is not the end. It is the beginning.' And Johannesburg made clear that the action must involve all actors working in partnership. Governments have to play their part, but sustainable development cannot be achieved by them alone. In Johannesburg, local government met together and issued a powerful declaration "The Johannesburg Call". You will all need to play an important role in making the link between what world leaders say on the global stage, and what happens at the local and individual level.

The North West has been at the forefront in taking forward the sustainable development agenda and I commend all the regional and local players for this. You were the first region to develop a detailed action plan for its sustainable development framework "Action for Sustainability". Nationally other regions followed your lead and by 2000 over 90% of the local authorities in England and Wales have successfully published Local Agenda 21 strategies. These community strategies will be vital for the implementation of the agreements reached in Johannesburg.

The Regional Assembly is now taking Action for Sustainability forwards with many partners and developing further tools to mainstream sustainable development, including work on an Integrated Appraisal Toolkit. I am pleased that Merseyside has been so involved in the pilot work for this tool using Local Agenda 21 plans in St Helens and Sefton, work on the Liverpool Community Handbook, an appraisal of Merseytravel's bus strategy and the £200 million Health Investment proposals for hospitals in St Helens and Knowsley. There are many good examples of practical work happening within your communities in the North West to help improve quality of life for all. These cover wide ranging topics the development of Eco Audit in Cheshire, a demonstrator energy home in St Helens and reusable nappy campaigns across the region. Schools have also been involved in the drive to educate the young about Sustainability from the many schools in the region who are part of the Eco Schools programme. I am sure that the North West will take note of the many decisions made at Johannesburg and more importantly, that local people and communities will start to help translate these agendas into positive and sustainable local action, working together in partnership. We now have a new political commitment, momentum and energy for the attainment of a sustainable world.



**MICHAEL MEACHER**

**Turn to page 3 to meet Chris Hennessy the Liverpool Environmental Network Co-ordinator.**

*Beyond the Summit – continued  
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From this it was a natural step to break up into a series of workshops, divided on the basis of our individual interests, in which, with the help of flip charts and facilitators, we had half an hour before lunch to work what our particular interest could contribute. But it is no use having ideas without thinking out just what they involve. So after lunch we returned to our workshops for another hour, to work out what would be needed to achieve these contributions. Which was where the hard work lay, because we shall not get far on our journey if we do not appreciate its obstacles. And we were asked to commit these ideas to paper.

Our final speaker, Fay Blair, from the Local Government International Bureau, talked about what local government can do for us. She pointed out that local governments are in fact already doing a great deal of work for us, far beyond that done by central government. So there is nothing wrong in lobbying them for what we see is necessary. They should be visionary and allow others to buy in.

At which point, in a general discussion, we went over the conclusions of our separate groups, although alas there was not enough time to do them justice. There was no doubt that it was a most stimulating and rewarding conference. But just how far will we all put into operation what we argued and learnt and not slip back into our short-sighted lives?

Many thanks to our excellent speakers, and Bryan Lipscombe: St Helens LA21 officer, Joy Woods: St Helens College, St Helens Council: especially Councillor Mike Doyle, Karen Evans from MET, Government Office NW, and all the many others who helped to make it a success.

Tony Bradshaw

## **Liverpool Community Network**

### **New Facilitator**

The Environmental Network now has a new facilitator. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Chris Hennessy; my background has been in Facilities and Environmental Management. If you need to contact me please use email if possible

[chris.hennessy@tesco.net](mailto:chris.hennessy@tesco.net) or phone 0151 794 3137. You can also write to me:

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### **Network Representative**

The Environment Network needs to select an 'interim representative'. The role of the representative is to gain the views of the groups within the Environment Network and ensure they are put forward at the various meetings he or she attends. The representative will also need to feed back information via the facilitator, to the rest of the Environment Network

### **News and Events**

The idea of a network is to communicate with like-minded groups who have similar interests or agendas. If groups within the Environment Network have any news items or they are staging an event that maybe of interest to other groups please let me know. I will include any items of interest in the monthly briefing to the network.

### **Focus Group**

A Focus Group was held on the 18<sup>th</sup> of November, on the Role and Responsibilities of Representatives. Information and feedback from the groups was very helpful and interesting. The feedback will ensure documentation and the role of the representative is easy to understand and in various formats.

### **Environment Network Development**

The Environment Network has been in operation for six months, however the membership is only 28. Part of the role of the Facilitator is to develop the network, in order to achieve this goal the size of the membership has to increase. If any of the current members of the Environment Network are aware of community or voluntary groups who may be interested in joining the Network please ask them to contact Chris Hennessy.

### **Environment Network Steering Group**

The Steering Group is there to provide communication between the Environment Network and other bodies. The Steering Group can consist of up to twelve members at present we are short of that number therefore we want to recruit new members. This will increase the participation from the groups within the Environment Network. If anyone within the Environment Network is interested in becoming a member of the Steering Group please contact Chris Hennessy.

Chris Hennessy

**Turn to page 3 to meet Chris Hennessy the Liverpool Environmental Network Co-ordinator.**

## MEMBERSHIP

If you are interested in the work of MET and would like to join, fill in you 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.....  
.....  
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Postcode  
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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...

### Executive Elections and AGM

Members present at the AGM on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November heard a review of what has been an eventful and mostly successful year. MET president Tony Bradshaw, with contributions from Chair Geoff Woodcock, and Treasurer Don Thompson chaired the meeting. Copies of the Annual report are included in this mailing. The meeting heard about the contradictions that MET has faced this year. Whilst the "How Green is Your Life?" meeting had varied attendance in each borough, the spring time "Waste" meeting and the recent "Beyond the Summit" in St Helens were a great success. Taking this as their cue, the meeting decided to forgo the usual post meeting talk, and concentrate instead on the aims and objectives of the Trust in the future. Before this could be done, A new executive was announced and this was as follows:

President –	Prof. Tony Bradshaw
Chair –	Dr Geoff Woodcock
Vice Chair(s)	David Holland
	Don Thompson
Secretary/ Treasurer	Jean Russell

Moragh Bradshaw	Rita Walker	Louise Boyd
Jim Martin	Peter Wilson	

Thanks to new executive members Louise Boyd of East Prescott Road Nursery School, and Peter Wilson for taking the plunge, and also to Gwen White of Speke/Garston Environmental Group and Tony McCann of the Gateacre Society who have stood down from the committee after several years of loyal service.

The outcome of the discussion was the concentration of our energies into the following areas-

**Practical Action** – although MET enable practical action through the Environment Week Project, the Trust does not carry out projects per se. It was agreed that the best way to encourage action is to continue to support it. A suggestion that we have a flagship project to promote Environment Week, or indeed a special theme, will be discussed at the next Executive Committee meeting on 13 January 2003.

**Political Change** – MET both as an organisation, and through the role of its President and Chair as Environmental Ambassadors, has assured that the Environment is on the agenda at Local Authority level. MET continues to play a role in the LA21 Officers Group. It was agreed that MET needed to keep up the pressure to ensure that the Environment remains an important issue in all districts, and the Trust will endeavour to do this.

**Education** – this has been a developing area for the Trust and much work is still to be done. Although many bodies offer to work with schools, only MET offers a no strings support service as well as enabling projects through its grant scheme. If MET are able to access funds to do so, this will continue to be our major area of concentration.

## A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

May 26<sup>th</sup> -1<sup>st</sup> June 2003 Merseyside  
Environment Week 2003

**The Next issue of MetMail will be out in April 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 28<sup>th</sup> March 2003**

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