



Merseyside Environmental Trust

University of Liverpool, Room 208, Roxby Building, Chatham Street, Liverpool, L69 7ZT

Email: merseysideenvironmentaltrust@gmail.com

Registered Charity Number: 517132

Chair's Report 2016

32 and Still Moving!

2016 has been another significant year of change, we have had Brexit (well voted anyway), we have a new government and a new prime minister, the US has a new President Elect, closer to home the city region will elect a Metro Mayor in May 2017 – we are now in a period of some uncertainty.

The Paris Agreement has been ratified but 2016 is looking “very likely” to go on record as the world’s warmest year so far. Further cuts in Local Authority spending are more than likely resulting in a greater than ever threat to our parks and green spaces. Fracking has been given the go ahead in Lancashire by Whitehall over turning local decisions. Air quality in the UK and the City Region continues to be an issue of concern from a health and environment point of view.

For MET another year has gone by and we have moved office again! But thankfully; only to next door – Room 208. We now have a smaller office but access to better facilities within the University. We are reaching out to a wider audience both in cyberspace and the business community but need to do more and with the support of the membership I hope we can.

Trust Structure for 2015 – 2016

Stephen Yip MBE DL	President
Dr Geoff Woodcock	Vice President

Executive Committee

Stephen Sykes	Chair
Don Thompson	Vice Chair, Treasurer (Up to October 2016) and Editor of MetMail

Dr Stella Shackel	
Prof. Derek Gould	
Chris Hennessey	Membership Secretary
Richard Fassam	
David Holland	

Graeme Moore	Communications
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Les Bellmon	
Julie Anne Parker	
Stuart McBain	Treasurer (October 2016)



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Goodbye and Farewell

During the course of the year we said farewell to David Holland who has been a long time MET member and Executive Committee member but due to personal commitments David has found his time ever in short supply. On behalf of the Executive I would like to thank David for all his time and efforts on behalf of MET.

Focus / Activity

Green Drinks Liverpool 7th January, Dr Duncan's – Part of the Green Drinks International Network

Our 2016 programme of activity kicked off with our monthly Green Drinks gathering and continued on the first Thursday of the month for the whole year.

Green Pub Quiz – Launch of #GreenIn16 Campaign, The Cambridge, Mulberry Street, 16th March.

We kicked off the year with our annual Green Pub Quiz at The Cambridge. Testing participants "Green" knowledge and had some fun in good company. The event also served as the launch for #GreenIn16, a joint campaign by MET and Bang the Drum Environmental Solutions to encourage business leaders and individuals from across the Liverpool City Region to make a pledge to be #GreenIn16.

St Helens Business Fair 2016, 28th April, Langtree Park

St Helens Chamber of Commerce held their first business fair and MET took a stand to promote our activities to the business community of St Helens.

2nd Annual Gary Mahoney Memorial Debate - Britannia Adelphi Hotel, Thursday, 2nd June

In partnership with Liverpool Friends of the Earth we organised the 2nd annual debate in honour of Gary Mahoney, who died in November 2014. Gary was well known in local and environmental circles as the long-time coordinator of Liverpool Friends of the Earth and as air quality manager at Sefton Council. The topic this year was Climate Crisis? How do we respond? The panel consisted of **The Right Reverend Paul Bayes, Bishop of Liverpool & Andrew Morse, Professor of Climate Impacts at the University of Liverpool**. The event was hosted by **Elaine Gilligan, Friends of the Earth**.

CBRE Envirolive 2016 – 1st July, St Paul's Square,

This year we supported property management company CBRE's annual Environment Day Envirolive 2016 by providing and manning a stand in their exhibition.

Green Lunch, 6th September Liverpool & Sefton Chambers of Commerce, Old Hall Street – in partnership with Liverpool & Sefton Chambers of Commerce we sponsored the Chamber's Green Lunch, looking at various aspects of the Circular Economy. Guest speakers included Carl Beer, Chief Executive of Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority and Shaun Doran, Chief Executive of the FRC Group.



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Children and Natural Environments as Agents for Change: The Case for Physical Activity. Friend's Meeting House, 22nd September

Our second Health and the Environment event in partnership with the Duncan Society with guest speakers Dr Zoe Knowles and Dr Lynne Boddy from the Physical Activity Exchange John Moores University was another success in fact had we been selling tickets it would have been a sell out!

Brexit – the Implications for the Environment and Sustainability and ISO 14001:2015 Update. 15th December, Liverpool & Sefton Chambers of Commerce.

Our second event with Liverpool & Sefton Chambers of Commerce and final event of 2016 we will be hosting an update and sharing thoughts on environmental protection going forward with the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment's (IEMA) Executive Director of Policy.

A full list of past events can be viewed at <http://www.met-net.org.uk/past-events1.html>

Finance and Other Support for the Trust

The Trust still receives modest membership fees and still maintains a moderately healthy bank balance, but we cannot continue as we are for many more years as our accounts will attest. A priority for the Trust going forward will be to develop a more strategic fundraising strategy.

Again we have to thank the University of Liverpool for their continuing support in providing office space for the Trust which is a very valuable asset to us.



Support and Engagement

Executive Committee members continue to engage with an increasing fora such as;-

- Merseyside Local Access Forum
- Trans Pennine Trail Steering Group
- Association of Liverpool Allotments
- Merseyside Waste Recycling and Disposal Authority
- Merseyside Civic Society
- The Duncan Society
- Mersey Estuary Forum
- Transition Towns Liverpool
- Friends of the Earth Liverpool
- Liverpool Centre for Innovation in Urban Food
- Friends of Princes Park
- Friends of Otterspool Park
- Merseyside European Movement Committee
- Friends of Liverpool Parks
- COMTECHSA
- Mersey Forest
- University of Liverpool
- North West Environment Link
- Liverpool Chamber Energy & Environment Committee
- Nature Connected (Board)
- Faiths 4 Change (Board)
- Local Access Forum
- Liverpool Cycle Forum
- Cyclists Touring Club
- Friends of Renshaw Street Community Forum
- Friends of Hamilton Square Conservation Forum



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Communications

Item	2014	2015	2016
Website (www.met-net.org.uk)			
Page Views per Week	100	1000	1400
Individual Viewers	60	350	400
Twitter			
Followers	147	188	292
Tweets	131	294	1210
Linked In Group	107	226	266

MetMail has continued to be produced seasonally with more being sent electronically than by post.

During 2016 a “Donate” button was added to the website to make it easier for people to support the activities of the Trust either as one off donations or as a way to pay their membership.

2017 – More Change

Going forward as I have already stated we need to change, we need to engage with more people Mersey-wide especially young people and communities. Our web presence will continue to be developed and expanded to increase our reach and engagement.

We need to move our events around the city region and reflect that we are the Merseyside Environmental Trust.

We need to bolster our finances and engage with the private sector more.

To this end the Executive and myself are looking to recruit new members to the Executive Committee to bring new ideas and initiatives to the activities of the Trust.

2017 is looking to be interesting, tough and certainly a challenging time year for us!

Stephen Sykes
Chair

14th November 2016