

# METMAIL

Working for the Environment on Merseyside since 1984.

Autumn 2014

## Welcome to our Autumn Edition

We would like to extend a warm welcome to Trust members and supporters to our **29th Annual General Meeting**. This year it will be hosted by KIND Environment Centre the and the office of our President Stephen Yip. We have invited a number of our Environment Week Grant recipients to tell us their story of what their projects have achieved for themselves and the wider community on Merseyside.

The AGM will be on the 29th November starting at 10.00 with refreshments and hopefully an opportunity to wander around the amazing grounds and comprehensive facilities KIND has to offer the young people who visit. All are most welcome but drop us a line at the trust if you are coming. Details: [www.met-net.org.uk](http://www.met-net.org.uk)

## EU Commision News

Greening urban areas can reduce mortality rates in the elderly during heat waves

Greening urban areas can reduce the number of people dying from heat-related health problems, according to a recent study. The researchers found that doubling vegetation cover in central Melbourne could reduce heat-related mortality of the elderly by up to 28% during heat waves.

## A Tale of Two Cities – the wait is nearly over

Kew Gardens and Big Lottery have announced the shortlist for Grow Wild's England Flagship Site.

Landlife: A Tale of Two Cities project in Liverpool's Everton Park and Hulme in Manchester has been selected to go forward with four other sites to a final public voting round this autumn. Part of the dynamic £10.5m Grow Wild Community Fund to bring people and communities together to sow, grow and support UK native wild flowers, competition for the award is set to be strong.

Many thanks if you voted for us ! The winner will be notified soon an will receive £120,000 to transform a public space with wild flowers. “

The Trust wish them all the best!



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## Mayoral Commission on Environmental Sustainability launched

The Mayoral Commission on Environmental Sustainability was introduced, explored and discussed at two recent meetings. A conference for local stakeholders was hosted by Liverpool John Moores University on 12 May 2014. This event brought together 85 representatives from over 50 different organisations [incl. MET] in the city including businesses, schools, universities, city leaders, communities, voluntary sector and others. The event was facilitated by Arup with the aim to create a broad consensus as to which critical forces will drive

The Chamber of Commerce supported a further meeting with the Liverpool Green Partnership at Blackburne House shortly after.

The Commission, chaired by Professor Nigel Weatherill, Vice Chancellor and Chief Executive of Liverpool John Moores University, will be independent and will focus on ways that Liverpool can improve their sustainability plans for the future. The Chair encouraged comments via the LCC website and hoped some preliminary comments will be presented to Mayor Anderson in September. Liverpool will need to harness its environmental assets, businesses; education providers and communities to remain competitive in an unstable global market and the Commission will be instrumental in providing the information that in turn will shape Liverpool's future success!

The Trust is looking forward to the outcome of the Commission shortly. Read more at <http://liverpool.gov.uk/mayor/mayoral-commissions/commission-on-environmental-sustainability/>

## MET Environment Grants

We are pleased to introduce the **Friends of Renshaw Street Community Forum**, who successfully applied for a grant to produce recyclable Eco Bags designed by the pupils at St Nicholas Catholic Primary School. The City match funded the project, the first grant to FoRs but they have more projects in the pipeline!

Growing fresh food is the object of the game for the community of **Northwood Allotments** and the Trust are keen to help them achieve this with a 'fiscal' fertiliser to get things going. Creating a growing space for children and older people with a developing partnership with local schools seems to be a recipe for success.

Green Space is important for all the community and when a local **Campaign group** approached the Trust for support we had a long debate on whether this was a project we could help with. The outcome was a positive one and we will hear at the AGM how they are getting on with their Campaign.

Details of the Environment Week grants are available on our website and if you want any further advice just email one of the team at the Trust.

We had a email recently from Kenny Bennett who sent us a picture of Prof Anthony 'Tony' Bradshaw presenting an Environment Week grant cheque to the Breckfield Comprehensive School to develop their grounds.

Do you have any stories or pictures of your projects supported by the Trust? We would be keen to hear from you.

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## How green spaces could reduce risk of heart disease

Regular use of green space in a city setting may be linked to reduced risk of heart disease, a new Lithuanian study suggests. The authors found that people who lived closer to green spaces suffered fewer symptoms of heart disease over a four-year period, and that regular park users were at lower risk based on factors such as weight, physical activity and diabetes.

Read more at <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/integration/research/newsalert/archive/green-infrastructure.htm>

## Friberg shows the way but can we follow?

Walter Menzies, a NW Green Hero and Trust supporter for many years, profiles the lessons we can learn from the city of Freiburg.

Vegetable tourism is a gift to the world from Todmorden – the birthplace of Incredible Edible. Sustainability tourism? No contest: it has to be Freiburg in prosperous Baden-Wurtenburg, the sunniest place in Germany. Read more at <http://ontheplatform.org.uk/article/letter-freiburg>

## 330,000 Kettles Saved!

Good Neighbour Community Energy has just generated 50,000kWh of renewable energy in Liverpool. That's equivalent to the energy required to boil 330,000 kettles.

GNCE is an award-winning social enterprise in Liverpool, feted as the best new environmental business in the Echo Environmental awards 2013 for 'Liverpool Solar 1', a large solar energy installation on an apartment block in Granby. That has generated 50,000kilowatt-hours of renewable energy since it was switched on in March 2013, two months ahead of schedule.

"We're very pleased with the energy generated," said director Jerry Spencer, "not only are we helping tackle climate change (saving 116 tonnes of CO2) and reducing energy bills at the same time, we've shown Liverpool is fast becoming a solar hotspot." Find out more about this work at <http://www.gnce.co.uk/>

## New inquiry - are "community rights" actually working?

The Localism Act 2011 offers communities a set of new 'rights'. They may now challenge councils in England to run public services, bid for 'assets of community value', build local facilities and make statutory neighbourhood plans.

As an added sweetener, the government has earmarked £52m to help communities fund these ventures. But are community rights all they're made out to be? Not on the basis of evidence that shows them to be fraught with red tape, and a postcode lottery that invariably favours well-heeled areas.

Plus, there's the minor matter that the Coalition's infrastructure laws strip communities of their right to challenge fracking, nuclear proliferation and high speed rail. Laird Ryan has submitted evidence on behalf of NCIA.

Read more at <http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/communities-and-local-government-committee/community-rights/written/11869.html>

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**[WWW.METNET.ORG.UK/METMAIL.HTM](http://WWW.METNET.ORG.UK/METMAIL.HTM)**

## Pen Portrait – Chris Hennessy

Unlike Stephen I was born in Portsmouth, but I have been in Liverpool so long I feel am an adopted scouser. I served my time with Plessey Telecomms , (later Marconi) I was eventually the Environment and Maintenance Manager. It was during this time that I was involved in implementation of EMS at Edge Lane and the site at Cambridge. I also carried out Environmental Audits and Duty of Care inspections. When I left Marconi I was involved with the implementation of 'Rotters' in Garston and subsequently the Food Waste industry with Tidy Planet. Read more: <http://www.rotters-liverpool.org.uk/>

I have been part of MET for several years following on from some time with Liverpool Community Environment Network [LCEN]. I play golf regularly, I recycle whatever I can and have just recycled 60,000 DVD's. Last year I facilitated the recycling of 7000 pillows. We all have to do our bit. I also do some work in the Event Industry; this gives environmental opportunities to influence contractors to improve their impact on the environment.

## Last word.....

Congratulations to the Mersey Forest again, this time to their Director, **Paul Nolan**, who received an OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours in recognition of his services to forestry. During his time at the partnership, they have planted 9 million trees across Merseyside and North Cheshire, secured £41m in investment in local green spaces, and held 40,000 community events. Well done!

Want to get the **Green Bullet** from North West Environment Link (NWEL) then go to [www.vsnw.org.uk](http://www.vsnw.org.uk) it is a partnership of environmental voluntary sector organisations, representing hundreds of thousands of members in the North West.