

METMAIL

Working for the Environment on Merseyside since 1984.

Spring 2013

Welcome to 2013 and new faces!

The AGM in November was the final duty for our outgoing President, Grant Luscombe, who had the opportunity to welcome our incoming President, Stephen Yip. Grant's history with MET spans nearly three decades as he was instrumental in founding the Trust in the 1980s. Landlife, National Wildflower Centre are a few names synonymous with Grant's life ethos of creating and building environmental organisations. Alongside our late past President, Tony Bradshaw, they both worked tirelessly, both locally and globally, in the research and development of land use and creating a better environment, with new opportunities for wildflowers and wildlife and encouraging people to enjoy them. We, at MET, are all grateful for his wise guidance and diligent support and we know that he will remain a valued friend of the Trust.

Climate Week 4th—10th March

Climate Week is Britain's biggest climate change campaign, inspiring a new wave of action to create a sustainable future. Culminating in a week of activities, it showcases practical solutions from every sector of society. Here on Merseyside there are a plethora of events. MET is having a special showing of the 'Age of Stupid' at the FACT [4th] in the heart of the city centre and a **Green Drinks Pub Quiz** in the Dr Duncan's pub [7th].

Meet the Exec:

Over the next few issues of MetMail we will introduce other members of the Exec. who are giving their time and energy in maintaining the aims and objectives of the Trust but we are always keen to welcome others who feel they have skills that can benefit our work. Please contact the Chair via the website in the first instance.

The Exec team now numbers eleven plus our President. Inside this issue we have 'pen portraits' from our newly-appointed President Stephen Yip and our newly-elected Chair, Stephen Sykes.



merseyside
environmental
trust



merseyside
environmental
trust



merseyside
environmental
trust



merseyside
environmental
trust



merseyside
environmental
trust



merseyside
environmental
trust

President – Stephen Yip

Stephen was born, brought up and still lives in the heart of Liverpool. His is of Anglo-Chinese origin and one of 10 children!! Married to Trish, they have 3 children and 3 grandchildren.

He has spent the last 38 years founding, developing and managing the children's charity **KIND**. His work with the Charity is all consuming and leaves little time for anything else. Over the years the Charity has worked with, and on behalf of, tens of thousands of disadvantaged children and families; helping to make a difference, no matter how small, in the lives of the most disadvantaged within our Community. In 1998 the Charity developed the SEED centre, an environmental education centre for the community. This has been developing over the years and is well worth a visit.

Stephen became a Deputy Lieutenant in 2011 and was awarded the Freedom of the City of Liverpool last year.

For more information about **KIND** go to <http://kind.org.uk/>

Chair– Stephen Sykes

Stephen is a Merseysider born and bred, raised in St Helens and a rugby league fanatic. His professional life started in the chemical industry on the dock road in Liverpool implementing and maintaining quality, health, safety and latterly environmental management systems. After 16 years he “jumped the fence” and spent the following 11 years in Groundwork, with spells at both local Groundwork Trusts as well as being National Programme Manager for their Business and Employment programmes, as well as working on projects in Ukraine, Romania, Belgium and Japan.

Just over 5 years ago Stephen went self-employed establishing **Emansys**, helping companies to improve their environmental performance, implementing environmental management systems such as ISO 14001 and establishing carbon footprints and carbon management plans, with clients ranging from the NHS to small micro businesses.

Stephen is actively involved in the environmental fraternity on Merseyside. He re-established Green Drinks Liverpool, part of the Green Drinks International movement, is the Chair of Liverpool Chamber's Energy and Environment Committee and has recently joined the Board of Trustees of Rotters.

Stephen is looking forward to the year ahead with all the challenges to the environment on Merseyside, both in the physical and political landscapes, and making sure that MET plays a significant role with the other environmental organisations on Merseyside.

For more information about **EMANSYS** go to www.emansysuk.com/

Life Cycle Assessment - EU guidelines

The EU Joint Research Centre has produced a new part of the handbook that provides guidelines for developing and using Life Cycle Assessments (LCA), which evaluate the environmental impacts of products, focusing specifically on life cycle impact assessment (LCIA).

It recommends that assessments should be comprehensive, accessible and easy to apply in order to make LCA a more mainstream concept in decision-making.

http://lct.jrc.ec.europa.eu/index_jrc

See more at www.egemagazine.com/http://www.egemagazine.com/

eg is published by The Global to Local Foundation, a not-for-profit company, limited by guarantee.

Is the Barrage Scheme proposed for the Mersey compatible with migratory fish populations?

In 1999 salmon returned to the River Bollin after an absence from the Mersey catchment of more than 100 years. This represented a massive milestone for the clean up of the Mersey Estuary and a welcome success story. The returning fish were not able to spawn because there are a number of impassable weirs blocking their access to suitable spawning areas in the Bollin. However, since that time we have seen the salmon runs gradually increase, and to everyone's amazement salmon parr were found in the headwaters of the River Goyt in 2003, proving that salmon were once again breeding in the catchment. We have yet to establish whether any of the fish that hatched in the Goyt have successfully returned there to spawn, but it is probably only a matter of time.

In this context the Wildlife Trusts were concerned that the barrage scheme might pose a serious risk to the newly resurrected salmon population as well as to other migratory species such as eel and lamprey, and of course to bird populations in the estuary.

The publication by Peel Energy of the Stage 3 Feasibility study has done little to allay those concerns. Indeed, there is a clear acknowledgement in the report that there is a case to answer. For example estimates of the percentage loss of salmon on a single pass through a moving turbine are put at 2 to 10% whilst the figure for eels is as high as 38%. This is probably because eels are longer, swim more slowly and hug the river bed. This would bring them into contact with the outer part of the turbine blade which is of course moving most rapidly. No estimates are given of the estimated loss of salmon smolts on their downstream journey to the sea, or indeed of the overall impact of all these losses on the viability of the salmon or eel populations.

The scheme has now been shelved for financial reasons, but the Trusts are keen that we should use the breathing space created to investigate some of these concerns more closely without the immediate pressure of the scheme timescale which was originally to apply for planning permission in April 2012.

David Crawshaw, Lancashire Wildlife Trust

**Merseyside
Environmental
Trust**

*Working for the
environment on
Merseyside since 1984*

University of Liverpool
Civic Design Building
74 Bedford Street South
Liverpool
L69 7ZQ

Phone: 0151 794 3137

E-mail:

chair@met.org.uk

www.metnet.org.uk



**WHEN YOU HAVE READ THIS PLEASE PASS IT TO A
FRIEND OR EMAIL THE LINK.....**

WWW.METNET.ORG.UK/METMAIL.HTM

Keep Britain Buzzing Campaign

Huge numbers of bees have been lost in recent years, potentially jeopardising future food supplies. Their loss is a sign that something is badly wrong. There is strong evidence that neonicotinoids - a class of pesticide first used in agriculture in the mid 1990s at exactly the time when mass bee disappearances started occurring - are involved in the deaths.

You can support our work, protect bees, and keep Britain buzzing by donating to our campaign today. As a thank you we'll send anyone who donates £5 or more a campaign badge and pack of bee-friendly organic phacelia seeds.

Find out more @ www.soilassociation.org/supportus/keepbritainbuzzing

Echo Environmental Awards

Environmental awareness is at an all-time high - yet we're nowhere near where we need to be. It's our world, it's our local community ...and looking after it means we need to do more and do it more quickly. MET would support the *Liverpool Echo* in their campaign to identify those people and organisations who are making a difference and encourage them on to yet-greater efforts. One of last year's winners was '*Enviropool*' an award-winning business run by pupils of Hunts Cross Primary School in South Liverpool which is dedicated to the collection and re-use of natural materials we see around us. So why not enter. For assistance or enquiries please call the events team on 0151 472 2570 or email events@liverpool.com Deadline for entries: Friday 22nd March 2013

Project Dirt—Liverpool is another way to get involved in your local environment. PD Project Mab Lane Community Forest have also been winners in the Awards. Go to <http://www.projectdirt.com/project/8713/>