



Chair's Report 2019 - 2020

35 and Weathering the Storm!

2019 has been unofficially been dubbed the Year of Protests, in April more than 1000 people arrested as Extinction Rebellion activists marched on Parliament to invite MPs to discuss climate change policies with three core demands

1. Tell the truth about climate change
2. Reduce carbon emissions to zero by 2025
3. Create a citizens' assembly to oversee progress

The hottest July on record was recorded at Kew Gardens 37.7°C only to be broken in Cambridge the following day at 38.7°C now the UK record.

September 20 – 27th 2019 saw a series of climate strikes, also known as the Global Week for Future, inspired by Greta Thunberg and the School Strike for Climate, 3 days before the United Nations Climate Summit took place in New York to demand that action be taken to address climate change. The protests took place across 4500 locations in 150 countries the Guardian reported that 6 million people participated whilst 350.org a group that organised many of the protests claimed it was more like 7.6 million

2019 – 2020 was also a stormy year with visits from Freya, Gareth, Hannah, Atiyah, Brendan, Ciara, Dennis, Jorge, Ellen and Francis. Headlines included “Storms inflict £7.7bn worth of damage on a third of UK property”, “Storm damage leaves councils facing big cuts to pay for repairs” and “Damage from storms Dennis and Ciara set to cost more than £360 million. In the North West of England the biggest climate change impacts will be sea level rise and increased flooding.

In British politics, July 2019 saw Boris Johnson become the UK's Prime Minister and the UK left the EU on the 31st January 2020.

2019 was also the Liverpool City Region Year of Environment and MET took an active part in proceedings sitting on the steering group, organising events and facilitating the Climate Change and Resilience Theme Listening Event.

With diminishing resources both financial and human, the Trust continues to develop partnerships, to engage in all aspects of society, civic, political and economic and has continued to put on events and award small grants for local people to make a difference to improve their local environment.



Merseyside Environmental Trust

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

Email: merseysideenvironmentaltrust@gmail.com

Registered Charity Number: 517132

Trust Structure for 2018 – 2019

Stephen Yip MBE DL President
Dr Geoff Woodcock Vice President

Executive Committee

Stephen Sykes Chair
Don Thompson Vice Chair
Dr Stella Shackel
Prof. Derek Gould
Richard Fassam
Graeme Moore Communications
Stuart McBain Membership / Secretary / Treasurer

The Executive Committee has remained committed but with other commitments it is a priority for the Trust to increase the ranks of the Executive in order to share the workload.

Focus / Activity

Green Drinks Liverpool 4th April, Dr Duncan's – Part of the Green Drinks International Network

Our 2019 programme of activity kicked off with our monthly Green Drinks gathering and continued on the first Thursday of the month for the whole year.

5th Annual Gary Mahoney Memorial Debate - Britannia Adelphi Hotel, Thursday, 6th June

MET, Liverpool Friends of the Earth and Faiths4Change presented the annual Gary Mahoney Memorial Debate at The Pearce Suite in The Adelphi Hotel.

This was the fifth annual debate held in honour of Gary Mahoney, Air Quality Manager with Sefton Council and long-time Friends of the Earth representative, whose sudden death in November 2014 was a sad loss for environmentalists on Merseyside and beyond.

The title of this year's debate was "A Climate of Truth, Lies and Secrecy" chaired by Helen Pidd, North of England Editor, The Guardian with panellists Kevin Global, Editor, Big Issue North and Dr Neil Gavin, Senior Lecturer in Politics, University of Liverpool.

Approximately 100 attendees

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GARY MAHONEY MEMORIAL DEBATE

A Climate of Truth, Lies or Secrecy?

How Climate Change and other environmental concerns are treated by the media?



6th June, 2019 | 7.30pm-9.15pm
Pearce Room | Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool, L3 5UL

TO REGISTER ATTENDANCE / MORE DETAILS 07786 746704
OR VISIT ACTIONNETWORK.ORG/EVENTS/GARY-MAHONEY-MEMORIAL-DEBATE-CLIMATE-CHANGE-AND-THE-MEDIA



GARY MAHONEY MEMORIAL DEBATE

The fifth annual Gary Mahoney Memorial Debate will be held in tribute to the exceptional environmental scientist and campaigner Gary Mahoney, who died in late 2014.

The debate will be preceded by informal networking as our monthly Green Drinks Liverpool is held downstairs in the Adelphi's Wave Bar from 6pm.

An informal evening, largely based around questions from the floor, which we hope will make an important contribution to discussion of vital and topical environmental and social concerns.

Panelists:

Helen Pidd, North of England Editor The Guardian [Chair]

Kevin Gobal, Editor, Big Issue North

Dr Neil Gavin, Senior lecturer in Politics, University of Liverpool.

This event is cohosted by Liverpool Friends of the Earth and Merseyside Environmental Trust. The event is supported by Faiths4Change and Philosophy in Pubs.





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Liverpool City Region Year of Environment 2019 – Climate Change and Resilience Listening Event

Partners: Faiths4Change; Merseyside Environmental Trust; 2030 Hub, Liverpool Friends of the Earth; Transition Towns Liverpool; Extinction Rebellion Liverpool; Zero Carbon Liverpool; Energy Projects Plus; Merseyside Christian Aid & Wirral Council.

The event was initially led by Merseyside Environmental Trust (Stephen Sykes) and Faiths4Change (Annie Merry) as both are members of the Year of Environment Steering Group. Our full intention in taking on the Listening Event was to connect with members of different environmental groups, campaigns and organisations from across the LCR to create a partnership approach.

This was to:

1. Ensure a democratic approach
2. To reach into and draw on a wealth of knowledge, expertise and energy
3. To maximise reach and engagement with residents via a host of local networks
4. We believe that tackling climate emergency requires a partnership approach

Representatives of some of the partners met and communicated via email prior to the event to develop it including determining the themes – Ask (any question); Social Justice; Psychology and Emotional / Mental Wellbeing; Democracy, Solutions and Re-visiting the People's Vision.

The event was delivered in world café style, with the scene set on climate change by Professor Andy Morse of the University of Liverpool. Participants could then choose to move around and contribute at all or any of the themed table discussions. A facilitator and scribe from partner organisations took on these roles at each table.

Additional contributions have been received (and were encouraged) and are included from those who were unable to make the event. Approximately 40 delegates.

(Extracted from feedback report to LCR YoE 2019 Steering Group prepared by Annie Merry Faiths4Change/Liverpool FoE)





Grants

This year grants have been awarded to:

| Group/Organisation | Grant Value |
|--|------------------|
| Womens Health Information and Support Centre | £500.00 |
| HYPE | £500.00 |
| St Cuthbert's Catholic High School | £500.00 |
| Wirral Environmental Network | £500.00 |
| St Luke's in the City PCC (St Michael's) | <u>£481.60</u> |
| | <u>£2,481.60</u> |

In August 2019 due to the increased demand in 2018 and 2019 the Executive Committee took the decision to temporarily close the Environment Grant Fund to preserve the Trust's reserves.

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 range of fora such as;

- LCR YoE 2019 Steering Group
- Merseyside Local Access Forum
- Trans Pennine Trail Steering Group
- Association of Liverpool Allotments
- Merseyside Recycling and Waste 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
- 2030hub
- Mersey Forest
- University of Liverpool
- North West Environment Link
- Liverpool & Sefton Chambers of Commerce Responsible Business Forum.
- Nature Connected (Board)
- Faiths 4 Change (Board)
- Local Access Forum
- Active Travel Forum
- Cyclists Touring Club
- Friends of Renshaw Street Community Forum
- Friends of Hamilton Square Conservation Forum
- Liverpool Parks Forum

Communications

| Item | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|---|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Website (www.met-net.org.uk) | | | | | | |
| Page Views per Week | 100 | 1,000 | 1,400 | 1,500 | 1,344 | 1,224 |
| Individual Viewers | 60 | 350 | 400 | 750 | 1,248 | 715 |
| Twitter | | | | | | |
| Followers | 147 | 188 | 292 | 395 | 570 | 604 |
| Tweets | 131 | 294 | 1210 | 2091 | 2,935 | 2,979 |
| Facebook | | | | | | |
| Followers | | | | | 203 | 213 |
| Page Likes | | | | 85 | 172 | 186 |
| Linked In Group Members | | | | | | |
| Members | 107 | 226 | 266 | 271 | 275 | 279 |

MetMail has not been produced this year and a new electronic version using MailChimp is being developed.



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Covid-19 and Green Recovery Challenges

2020/2021 – has screamed a host of slogans and calls to action at us “Decade of Action” in response to a slow start and take up of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, “Race to Net Zero” in reaction to the Paris Accord and mixed progress so far, “Build Back Better” or “Grow Back Greener” as some would say as the response to Covid-19. In these uncertain and challenging times, the Trust needs to find its place in an evolving and adapting Liverpool City Region.

In 2019/2020 the Trust played an active role in the LCR Year of Environment, through steering group participation and event organisation. Going forward we now have representation on the LCR Climate Partnership and will have input to the LCR Carbon and Ecological Emergencies Action Plans.

As the environmental agenda changes with the expected introduction of the Environment Bill, the UK hosting the UN CoP 26 in Glasgow the Trust needs to become more visible, have a greater voice, to engage with more people within the Liverpool City Region especially young people and communities. Our web presence will continue to be developed and expanded to increase our reach and engagement.

Lockdown has forced us as a society to make greater use of technology, hosting events and bringing people together is now relatively easy and inexpensive MET needs to harness these platforms to move forward.

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.

2020 - 2021 is looking to be interesting, tough and certainly a challenging year for us!

Stephen Sykes
Chair