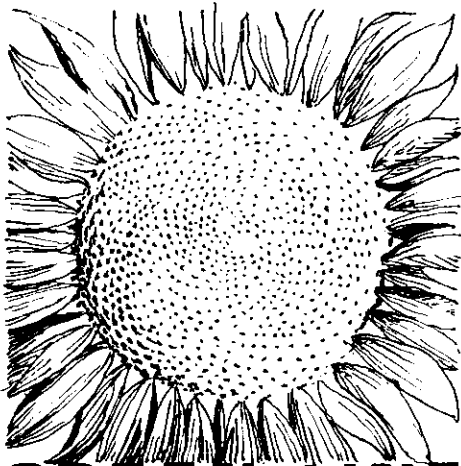


green line

No.2
APRIL/MAY 1982
25p

Ideas and Action from the Ecology Party and the Green Movement





GREEN LINE

RESPONSE TO Green Line 1 was very encouraging: sales topped 900. Keep your ideas, suggestions and articles coming in!

When writing letters for publication please remember that Green Line is not a house journal for the Ecology Party, and we hope to receive letters on rather wider issues.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: To get the next 8 issues as published, write your name and address on the back of a cheque and post it to Green Line, 16 Lundsfarm Road, Woodley, Reading, Berks. Say which issue you want to begin with.

BULK ORDERS: Buy 10 or more, and you get them for only 17p each (post free). Bulk orders must be paid in advance. Place copies sale-or-return in alternative bookshops and wholefood shops (if shops return copies you then can't sell, tell us and we'll credit you.)

ADVERTISEMENTS: from small ads at 5p a word to display boxes at £20 for a half-column, these offer excellent value and boost our revenue. We have a leaflet giving full information on display ads: please write for a copy.

DEADLINES: GL 3 appears on May 21, and GL 4 (a Green Gathering Special) on July 1. Space is filled well ahead: tell us NOW if you have material suitable for these issues.

LETTERS for publication should not exceed 200 words and may be cut.

TO CONTACT US:

Our editorial address is
14, Alexandra Road, Oxford OX2 ODB.
(Telephone Oxford 45301 / 46079).

Urgent orders: phone Oxford 45301
between 10 am and 1 pm weekdays.

OUR SPECIAL THANKS to Richard Hunt for his illustrations and good design advice, to which we do scant justice!

SUNFLOWER STICKERS:

"THE ALTERNATIVE: ECOLOGY". 4 1/2" diameter. Special bulk rates (inc. p&p): £12.50 per 100; £7.50 for 50; £1.80 for 10. Less than 10: 20p each plus 15p p&p. From Wales Eco, Marchoglywn Fawr, Llanfynydd, Carmarthen, Dyfed.

CONSERVATIONISTS - now read Eric McGraw's "Proposals for a National Policy on Population." 50p post paid from Population Concern, 27/35 Mortimer Street, London W1.

NEW RADIATOR magazine, CND in the South and West; strategic developments and the growth of the peace movement in southern England. Annual subscription £3 (12 issues); cheap bulk rates to local CND groups etc.; 25p for sample copy - 4 Chase Crescent, Woodcutts, Salisbury, Wiltshire.

FREE FESTIVALS. Stone provides free detailed information on future overnight free festivals; also free leaflets on how to camp at a free festival, and on past free festivals, Stonehenge, Deeply Vale, Ruthin, Cantlin Stone, Glastonbury, Psilocybin, etc. For free leaflets contact 01-767 1715 (evenings). STONE, 45 Westwood Hill, London SE 26.

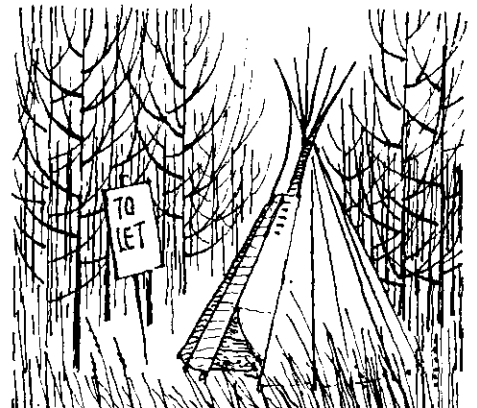
COMFORTABLE CLOTHES by post: Welsh wool shirts, traditional Indian clothes and pure cotton nightgowns. Chinese Hero cotton padded jackets size 36" only £22. Send s.a.e. for leaflet to Denny Andrews, Clock House Workshop, Coleshill, near Swindon (0793 762476). Callers welcome but please phone first.

GREEN/WHITE ECO HESSIAN SHOULDER BAGS £1.20 each + 30p p&p. 10 for £13 post paid. "Eco Safe Not Sorry" Tee shirts £2.20 each + 30p p&p. From Carmarthen Eco, c/o Anne de Boisgelin, Felin Newydd, Gellywen, Carmarthen, Dyfed SA33 6DY.

ECOLOGY KEYRINGS in leather, wooden pendants, brooches, life style money boxes. Details of these and other items from Eco fundraiser, Alltgoch, Gellywen, Carmarthen, Dyfed SA33 6DU.

ECOLOGY FOR BEGINNERS is one of many important titles for your bookstall which we can offer you at a 35% discount! Build up your bookstall now and sell lots this summer: write for our list of 100+ titles. Greenfly Distribution, 34 Cowley Road, Oxford OX4 1HZ.

ECO ELECTION RESULTS: how will the party fare in the May local elections? We rely on YOU for full and rapid information on results (preferably use the special Green Line results form in the latest activists mailing).



SMALL ADS

BOOKS BY POST, POST FREE! (If over £1.50). Ecology for Beginners (Croall and Rankin) £1.95; Eco-Philosophy (Skolimowski) £2.95; The Sane Alternative (Robertson) £1.95; Life Style - a parable of sharing (Dammers) £4.95; How to Make Up Your Mind about the Bomb (Neild) £2.95; As Lambs to the Slaughter (Bradford School of Peace Studies) £1.75; Impact of Nuclear Waste Disposals to the Marine Environment (a new PERG report by Peter Taylor) £5.50. Any other book obtained to order if not in stock. EOA Books, 34 Cowley Road, Oxford (0865-45301).

SMALL ADS ARE JUST 5p A WORD. PUT ONE IN THE NEXT ISSUE - NOW!

peace news for nonviolent revolution

Reading *Peace News* keeps you in touch every fortnight, with news and ideas from those active in the anti-nuclear, peace and nonviolent social change movements. It carries reports, from those involved, of all aspects of political struggle—from conferences to site occupations, from demonstrations to living and working in co-operatives.

It is a major forum for discussing the implications of opposition to the bomb—the need to oppose nuclear power and to develop alternative technology; to work against exploitation of the Third World; to learn the lessons of feminism; and to struggle against authoritarian institutions everywhere.



Peace News is 30p fortnightly. You can get it from radical bookshops or on order from news-agents. A year's direct postal subscription is £10.80 (or a five issue trial sub is only £1.50) from: Peace News (G), 8 Elm Avenue, Nottingham 3 (tel 0602 53587).

CONFERENCE STRUCTURES CAN be inflexible, and the best of ideas, the best of movements, and the best of people can be subjected to 'death by conference'. Hopefully the 180 Eco members who attended this one have learnt something useful if from this fact alone!

The key debates were on feminism and nonviolent direct action (NVDA). Both were held entirely in plenary sessions, and the only small-group discussions on the agenda were 30 minutes of debate on the Draft Forward Strategy prepared by John Foster and David Taylor. Unfortunately however this latter debate ineptly turned into a debate on NVDA, overlooking most of the major issues in the Forward Strategy and merely pre-empting the NVDA discussion to follow.

ECOLOGY AND FEMINISM... AND

MASCULINIST SEMANTICS

The feminism debate was excellently introduced by Leonie Caldecott, Angela Needham, and Margaret Wright - but ill prepared for by the participants at conference who certainly hadn't read the first issue of Green Line and took up most of the discussion time by arguing about terminology. Some would describe this as a typical example of masculinist debate: it brilliantly contrived to avoid the real issues which had been put forward, and went to the heart of neither feminism nor ecology.

NVDA: CLUES IN AMBIGUITY?

NVDA at least got hotly debated. A motion which set out to support the concept, but then restricted Eco's possible participation in it so tightly as to render it almost impossible, was amended piecemeal until some members argued it was incomprehensible. Probably however this argument was a useful peg on which to hang the widespread feeling that although conference might well usefully debate the pros and cons on NVDA it was not a subject on which a detailed national strategy was needed. Thus the debate on this motion was eventually concluded without a vote being taken.

Then conference, having just voted in favour of an amendment to the now abandoned motion which stated that "no direct action can be supported by the Ecology Party if it contravenes the law", proceeded to vote 149 to 123 for a motion which stated "that the Ecology Party supports considered nonviolent direct action as legitimate political expression." Eco's position is now as it always has been; conference has confirmed the 'political legitimacy' of NVDA,

JON CARPENTIER reports on the Eco policy conference held in Bridlington in March.

Conference Talk

and groups both national and local of party members will use their own judgement about specific involvement.

FOR A GREEN FEDERATION

A remarkable amendment which held (among other things) that Eco rejects the "fundamental bases ... of socialism (and) ... liberalism" was defeated overwhelmingly, along with the rest of the motion which wanted to prevent the NC from "taking any steps towards electoral co-operation without the approval of conference." This last point was probably held by most members to be highly unlikely anyway, if not beyond the NC's remit! The amendment had been put to a motion which affirmed the "prime importance of building a re-alignment of radicals in this country" and argued for Eco involvement in the establishment of a green federation.

This motion was passed.



Relevant here, and commended by several speakers in the Forward Strategy debate, was a paper by Robin Smith which advocated a tripartite structure for the party. First would be Eco, geared to elections and policy formulation. Second would be EAT (Eco-Action Trust), the project-pioneering trust advocated by John Foster in the Strategy. And part three would be APE (Association of Political Ecologists), an association of greens who seek to forward the green revolution primarily through direct action and situationist politics.

The merits of the 'Troika' proposal were evident to many. Each grouping could develop its own potential as an instrument of the green revolution without compromising the work or rationale of the others. Doubtless too there was the lurking suspicion that such a well-planned 'specialisation' might be preferable to a sudden and unplanned fragmentation of the present party over a contentious issue - such as NVDA. After all, one Eco veteran was to say in the course of conference that if the party took on board illegal direct action she would leave and seek to set up a new party.

And she meant it.

UPS AND DOWNS

A working party paper on social welfare went the way of all badly worded policy papers - back for re-drafting. How it got past the policy co-ordinator and into the time-table was one of the minor mysteries of conference. But I mention it in passing for those who are curious as to its fate.

The attempt to persuade Eco to affiliate to War Resisters International was remarkable and hilarious. The unsuspecting David Taylor had discussed the idea with someone at the WRI London office who thought it excellent and appropriate. So WRI chairperson Myrtle Solomon came to conference to 'answer questions'. Once at the microphone, however, she proceeded (to David's astonishment) to reject the proposal as quite inappropriate. Eco wasn't, she said, a pacifist party...

The report on co-operation among the European green parties offered mixed hopes. A co-ordinating group meets regularly, but Eco's attempt to get a draft common manifesto agreed has failed. It is hoped however to formulate a joint green approach to the 1984 Euro-elections, and Green Line will be reporting on progress in later issues.

This report has, I hope, conveyed to members and non-members alike something of what took place at Bridlington. It would be incomplete, though, without a mention of the high spot of the weekend - a revue written by Jonathon Porritt and acted by him, Susan and Paul Ekins, and Alec Ponton. It comes as a relief to remember that we all spent Saturday evening rolling mirthfully in the aisles to strains of "If you were the only Shirl in the world and I were the only Roy" and thoughts of VII (Violent Indirect Inaction).

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH in Oxford recently organised a media workshop at which a senior journalist from a local paper and the station manager of a BBC local radio station talked about access to their media and answered activists' questions. Here is a summary of what was said ...

The Media - Getting in there

LOCAL NEWSPAPERS come in all shapes and sizes, and generalisations are dangerous. Many small weeklies may be very short-staffed: other papers (perhaps the local evening daily) may have dozens of reporters paid a weekly retainer to cover events in their village or neighbourhood. So get to know your press, and ring the news desk to see if there's a reporter allocated to your area.

See yourself as an extension of the press: feed them stories. Build a good relationship with them by supplying good stories even when they have nothing to do with any axe you want to grind: that way they'll get to know you as a source of good material, and may start to ring you spontaneously for news or comment.

Good news stories have an element of action, and there must be a local peg to hang them on. News releases should be concise and to the point: mention the action and the local connection, and give a telephone contact which will be valid for 48 hours (and who must be able to put a reporter in touch with anyone referred to or quoted in the release!) Try to make the release so that it can be printed as it stands: this may appeal to a small, short-staffed paper in particular.

FILLING OUT THE STORY

Enclose with a press release copies of all relevant documents, including copies of letters to third parties (an MP, for instance). And say if there is any photographic potential. At election times, supply the press with photographs of your candidates.

Sometimes papers may use other photos you take or supply yourself.

Prize Numbers

THE WINNING NUMBERS in the Eco New Year Draw were as follows: 16963, 20175, 12076, 73304, 47787, 55322, 76846, 39710, 55670, 55106, 58350, 77868, 78020, 94586.

A total of 17,698 tickets were sold, and over £1000 made for local and national party funds. Of the 14 winners, only 2 were not from southern England addresses.

If you've got something really hot and newsy, try taking the undeveloped film straight along to the newspaper's offices.

Treat all local papers equally (if you have more than one!) If you put all your eggs in one basket, it may be you who suffers in the long run. On the other hand, you may be able to cultivate a particular journalist or paper by supplying good 'exclusive' stories, which may then get relatively greater prominence in that paper.

FEATURES

It's always worth asking the features writer(s) to do an article on something you're doing, or feel strongly about. Read the paper carefully and see who writes on green topics. Ring them personally, or just ask the switchboard for 'features'. Remember you may not get exactly the slant you want: it's not your job to tell the writer his or her job. But if you've given them good material they'll want to come back for more another time...

One or two generalisations: most photographers are on special assignments on Saturdays, or are having the day off, so if you're arranging something which merits a photograph offer a weekday daytime opportunity for a photographer to call. Daily papers may be thin on Saturdays, but they sell plenty of copies because of the sports coverage. Mondays are good too.

NATIONAL DIMENSION

Your local papers may automatically send some stories on to certain national papers if they judge them worthwhile. But don't rely on this: send a copy of your press releases direct to the nationals if you think they merit it. Find out if there are any freelance journalists covering your area: they may appear in the Yellow Pages, or you can ring the NUJ in London - they keep a list. Put any likely freelance on your mailing list for press releases.

National magazines will sometimes take up a story, or print an article you send in (they won't pay you, which is one of the attractions for them!).

THE LETTERS PAGE

It's much easier to get into the letters column of a local paper than a national one. Your local papers probably use almost all the letters they get, bearing in mind that some will be raided for their news content (give your phone number in the day in case they want to follow it up) and others may overlap.

COMPLAINTS

If you think you're being unfairly treated, ring the editor or news editor and discuss it. Apparent discrimination may be accidental, or it may be that you've no idea what they're looking for. Remember the action - and the interesting (and bona fide) local peg.

Editors may be under constant pressure. An East Anglian editor was quoted as saying that whenever he covered an anti-nuclear story the Central Electricity Generating Board rang him to complain of bias. It helps the editor to maintain his position if you are equally firm and demand that the case against the CEGB should always be fairly stated.

ARRANGE YOUR OWN MEETING...

Finally, if you're starting from scratch, remember to get the local press sussed out from the start. Why not invite a likely journalist to come along to a meeting (jointly organised with FoE, CND etc?) to discuss 'Access to the Press'?

GETTING ONTO LOCAL RADIO

Listen to the station for as long as possible: get to know names. Listen to who is responsible for particular programmes - the producer or, if none is mentioned, the presenter. That's the person to ask for by name when you want to get in touch.

Learn the style of the station: make your requests fit in with their normal practice. The peak listening time is around 8 a.m. so material suitable for their 'breakfast show' will be widely heard. If you're offered a live interview, take it: it can't be edited, you're partly in control, and the interviews last up to twice as long as a carefully edited interview taped elsewhere. They like people who are willing to

travel to the studio.

Get to know how their 'phone-in' programmes work. Some are 'open line' - anyone can ring and chat to the presenter on any subject. On others you may be putting questions or comments to an expert in the studio. If you can keep the interest up, you may have 5 - 10 minutes on the air. Line up other people to ring in after you. If you would like a phone-in arranged on a particular subject, ring the relevant producer and suggest a topic - and if possible the 'expert' too. Remember they'll want to be reasonably certain that a good number of listeners will ring in.

THE PERSONAL TOUCH

Some stations cultivate 'helpfulness'. If you're offering useful information to listeners in response to a local problem, this may be a chance to talk about some real 'alternative' ideas and tell the listeners that this is ecology.

Listen for how the radio car(s) are used, and who reports from them. What kind of events do they cover, and when do they like to do live broadcasting from the cars. Why not ring the people concerned and invite the radio car along to a suitable event?

THE TECHNIQUES

Local radio news items are short, so keep press releases brief. If you've got a good story, they don't want masses of detail: they'll probably ring for an interview.

In a pre-recorded interview, don't answer questions you don't want to, or get cornered by heavily slanted questions. Ask the reporter to stop the tape and explain the problem: remember the reporter is under pressure to get a usable tape and will almost certainly co-operate. Radio stations are very understaffed compared with, say, a local daily paper. But remember too that playing 'devil's advocate' may be a good reporting technique, so don't expect the reporter necessarily to appear to agree with you!

In a live interview, again don't be bluffed. And be immediately frank if you feel the questions are missing the point you want to make: he or she has got to make the interview sound good, and there's no editing!

MAKING THE POINT

Unlike in a newspaper, a radio listener cannot re-read something he or she doesn't understand the first time. So make your points as simply as possible, and repeat them. Mock interviews with a friend using a cassette recorder will help you to know whether you speak too fast or too slow. Some programmes have a considerable momentum, with brief interviews sandwiched between records, while others may be more relaxed: choose the appropriate style if you have the chance. Tape other people's interviews off the air, and then replay them critically.

TAKING THE INITIATIVE

When a national story breaks in the national press or television, you can ring your local radio station and offer a local reaction on it. They may well then report the national news plus your reaction, which updates the material (they can use it on the breakfast show the next morning) as well as giving it the local flavour they want.

Some local stations use syndicated tapes. These take various forms, but are cassettes posted round to all the local radio stations (or to appropriate ones) containing an interview on some subject which the sender is particularly anxious to get on the air. It might be from a fertiliser manufacturer trying to disguise an advertisement for a new product as news for farmers; an interview with an author about a new book, sent out by the publisher; or it could be an interview with a prominent person about a newly-launched Ecology Party campaign. Depending on their catchment area, some local radio stations have easy access to their own 'experts', and these may well frown on the use of syndicated tapes: for others, though, such tapes may prove really useful, and many stations use them freely.

Remember that the tape need not be replayed in whole by the station. They may extract from it. The argument against these tapes is that they take time to listen to - so if possible include a transcript so that it can be assessed quickly.

ELECTION TIME

The local radio station is covered

by strict laws on equal access in the three weeks before an election, and station managers like to keep out of jail. No candidate or agent or any of their relatives must use a phone-in or get interviewed. Cover of an election must during this period include all the candidates: if there's a radio debate or forum, any non-participating candidate must consent in writing to the programme going ahead without her or him. Thus any candidate can veto such a programme up to the last minute. Producers therefore prefer to do these programmes in wards or constituencies where there are few candidates, and no 'nutters'. They also tend to avoid giving a platform to the National Front.

But don't inadvertently spike such a programme yourself by being impossible to contact: at election times above all, make sure all the local media how to contact the Ecology Party at all times.

GOING NATIONAL

Local radio feeds the national networks, but always go direct if you think your material merits it. Check whether BBC or your ITV company have a local film crew and office you can contact: they're under pressure to find local items for the regional news every day, and many people ignore them and don't send them press releases.

You'll get very different treatment from national media. It can take a TV crew hours to film a 3-minute sequence. Reporters often have a preconceived idea of what they want you to say, and just how you fit into their programme: don't be bullied, and remember that they are under tremendous pressure not to waste a journey. Be precise and concise in what you say: tapes may be edited out of recognition in an attempt to patch up a poor interview.

THE OVERALL PROBLEM

The main problem about local radio and TV is that the distribution is unfair. You stand a much better chance of coverage the nearer you are to their base of operation. So don't talk them into a long and costly journey which proves a waste of time: they won't come again. A demo, rally or other event just round the corner from the studio may well get impromptu coverage.



Theories of Unemployment

Part 1: Historical Background

A TWO-PART
ARTICLE BY
TIM COOPER

IT HAS BEEN SAID that an economist is a person who cannot see something in practice without asking himself whether it would work in theory. Such cynicism may be well founded. Yet there is a desperate need for ecologists to provide a credible critique of conventional economic theory. Ecological economics has to date suffered from an imbalance comprised of a surplus of prophetic gut feeling, a paucity of concrete empirical evidence, and a total dearth of theoretical reasoning. This article aims to offer steps towards creating a more evenly balanced approach in the light of Britain's unemployment crisis.

A few facts first to set the scene. The growth in unemployment is a long-term trend by no means solely the result of recent monetarist policies. Unemployment has reached a new peak under each successive government since 1966, and evidence suggests that only around 500,000 of the total now out of work can be attributed directly to this government's policies.

Unemployment, nonetheless, cost this nation 780 million days of lost production in 1981. (By comparison, strikes caused just 4 million days to be lost.) In addition to the 3 million registered jobless it is estimated that a further 500,000 people have stopped seeking work without registering, and between one third and two thirds of a million people are being kept off the dole queue through various Manpower Services Commission schemes.

The structure of unemployment has changed dramatically over the years. Around 2 million manufacturing jobs have been lost in the past decade, whilst there has been a growth in the number of jobs in the services sector. Even prior to the present recession some 1.3 million jobs in the private sector had been lost over the previous 20 years. The public sector grew through an additional 1.6 million jobs but, with the labour force rising by 2.2 million, insufficient jobs overall were created to meet the increased demand for paid employment.

This article will be split into three parts, starting with a brief and somewhat simplified survey of conventional theories of unemployment. This will be developed to consider the options for curing unemployment derived from these which are now being offered by Conservative, Labour, and Alliance politicians. The article will conclude by pointing to the strands of conventional theories which Ecologists might accept, and to the aspects of mainstream economics which they would reject.

CLASSICAL ECONOMICS AND THE GROWTH OF MONETARISM

As economists have analysed unemployment during this century, two distinct schools of thought have predominated. The monetarism which has grown in popularity of late appears to have stemmed from the Classical tradition in economics which began with Adam Smith. In this school, sometimes referred to as the 'New Classical School', emphasis is placed on looking at individual decision units such as

consumers and firms (i.e. 'microeconomics') and, in considering unemployment, at the availability and cost of labour.

Economists frequently use a framework based on the concept of a 'market', with prices being determined by the demand for, and supply of, the commodity in question. The framework allows for a labour market to be envisaged in which employers 'demand' labour and people requiring incomes 'supply' manpower for their part in the production process. The wage rate is thus the price of labour offered by the suppliers (i.e. potential employees) to those who require labour (i.e. potential employers). Note the implication here that it is the employees who determine wage levels.

Classical economists claimed therefore that unemployment arose when the prevailing wage rates were too high, which caused a surplus of labour supply over demand. In the 1930s, for example, their remedy for unemployment was for unions to be persuaded to take wage cuts, arguing that this would enable recovery to occur through subsequent economic expansion.

This theory was developed to encompass unemployment that might arise not as a result of cost factors, but through other constraints on the availability of labour. Beveridge, for example, pointed to numerous rigidities in the supply of labour. The fact that labour might be available but not in the right part of the country, or that there might be shortages of people with certain skills, might cause some unemployment, as would the time lags which occur whilst people changing jobs visit job centres and have interviews.

This latter point was elaborated by Robert Stigler, a colleague of the renowned monetarist Milton Friedman in Chicago. Stigler coined the phrase 'search unemployment', arguing that effectively many of the jobless were voluntarily out of work. Unemployment persisted because people sought to maximise their future incomes by spending time out of work beyond the minimum necessary, as they sought better paid jobs. Stigler's remedy was primarily twofold. The less controversial proposal was to improve the transmission of information about job vacancies and to encourage the mobility of labour.

Rather more controversial was his opinion that cutting unemployment benefits was an acceptable means of easing the problem, his argument being that this would reduce the ability of people to spend excessively long periods in search of better paid jobs.

Milton Friedman himself argued that government macroeconomic policy could not in any case effectively cure unemployment as there is a so-called 'natural' rate of unemployment to which the economy inevitably tends in the long run. An economist at the L.S.E., A W Phillips, had postulated a trade-off between unemployment and inflation, arguing that a particular rate of change of wages (and thus inflation) implied a certain level of

unemployment. Using empirical data from the 1950s and 1960s Phillips argued that governments could choose either to reduce unemployment or to reduce inflation, but that one goal would inevitably be at the expense of the other (although in the longer term a prices and incomes policy might allow for higher levels of employment to be attained without such inflation).

Friedman held that the trade-off held true only so long as inflation was not fully anticipated. In the short run, unemployment could be reduced temporarily if people mistakenly believed that 'money' or 'nominal' wage increases being offered were actually 'real' increases. As wage increases caused inflation, they would not in fact be real unless backed by higher productivity.

In the long run, as inflation would be anticipated, people would realise that they were not being offered real increases, would claim more, and this would raise unemployment again. Friedman claimed therefore that the level of unemployment in the long term was fixed at the 'natural' rate and could not be affected by macroeconomic policy: instead, policies aimed at repealing minimum wage laws or restrictive union practices were necessary.

The arguments of the Chicago school are employed in this country by monetarists such as Professor Patrick Minford of Liverpool University, who similarly argues the need to reduce state benefits and cut trade union influence.

Thomas Malthus wrote, in an earlier era, that unemployment was caused by insufficient demand in the economy. This, he said, arose as a result of excessive saving and he argued that the rich landlords should ostensibly increase their expenditure and also proposed a public works programme. Keynes developed these arguments in far greater depth. He claimed that unemployment was the result of insufficient aggregate demand caused by inadequate private sector investment, and argued for additional government expenditure on public works to compensate for this. Equilibrium in the labour market, he said, could not otherwise be obtained within a reasonable time period because real wages were 'sticky downwards' as the Classical remedy could not be imposed.

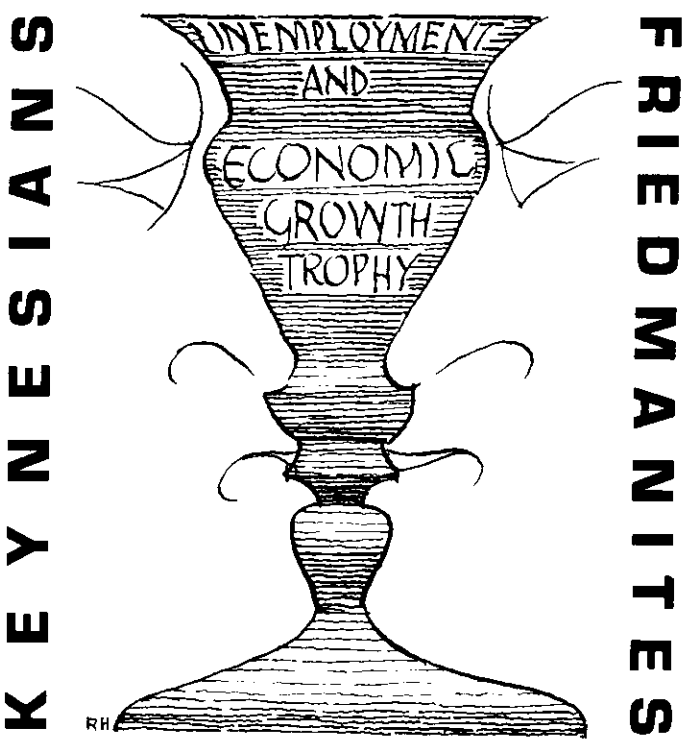
Keynes thus proposed a major increase in public investment. Previously governments had aimed to balance their budgets (i.e. match expenditure with tax revenue), whilst Keynes was advocating budget deficit financing. The Treasury argued (as today) that increased public expenditure would merely divert resources from the private sector, and, as the public sector was less 'productive', the net result would be a worsening of the situation. Nevertheless Keynes' views were increasingly accepted.

Keynesian economists thus argued for the need to take a macroeconomic approach, considering broad economic aggregates such as total demand, and total income and expenditure. They say that where there is insufficient private investment during business downturns (which cause temporary shortages in aggregate demand in the economy), then governments should increase their own expenditure and so make up the shortage. Throughout the post-war period until the monetarist revival, increasing public sector investment was seen as a valid means of stimulating demand - and thus employment - during recessions.

Such policies were widely accepted so long as governments could inject resources into the economy sufficient to maintain high levels of employment. After the oil price increases in the early 1970s the picture changed. Hitherto recovery had followed the periods of budget deficits and governments had been able to balance their books again. However, governments had now raised taxation to levels which were increasingly unacceptable and consequently they were forced to borrow more.

Even so, unemployment climbed higher. Keynesian policies appeared incapable of restoring full employment in the changing economic situation and alternative solutions were sought. It was the radical right-wing economists of the monetarist school who first found popular appeal.

*** In the next issue of Green Line we shall *** consider their expression in the Conservative Party and the options offered by opposition parties, together with the basis of an ecological alternative.



THE KEYNESIAN CONSENSUS

During the recession in the 1930s there were many who felt that the remedy proposed by classical economists - which necessitated the poorer members of society taking further cuts in their living standards - was unacceptable. In the inter-war years J M Keynes challenged much traditional classical analysis and argued that their policies, by reducing the total level of income, would worsen the depression through the effect on expenditure and thus output and employment. His views eventually became accepted as mainstream economic thinking, and by the 1970s Sir Keith Joseph of all people had proclaimed, 'We are all Keynesians now.'

GREEN LINE is in touch with the Human Economy Center in Massachusetts, where pioneering work is being done on a new economics in which value is attached not just to money, labour and property but to 'basic human values' as well. Traditional economics, they claim, is built on very faulty assumptions about human nature: their work is radical, revolutionary, and ecological. More from the Human Economy Center in future issues ...

Revolt from the Centre

REVOLT FROM THE CENTER: Niels Meyer, Helveg Petersen, and Villy Sorensen. (Marion Boyars, 190pp, £7.95 hardback, £3.95 paperback.)

THIS IS AN extremely stimulating and thought-provoking book, in spite of its rather unpromising title. First published in Denmark at the end of 1978 it was an immediate best-seller in that country, and its ideas were vigorously discussed and analysed in public and by the mass media. That in itself is an indication of just how different the political climate and level of political maturity must be in Denmark from that in Britain. The title too is extremely misleading to a British reader. 'Revolt from the Center' implies something to do with the collected speeches of Roy Jenkins; nothing could be further from what passes for political debate in the so-called centre of British politics than the ideas and action programme outlined in this book.

The book is divided into four sections which the authors outline as the direction a revolt from the centre would come from: (1) showing that the solution to the present problems demands a break with present development trends; (2) deriving a social and political goal from people's natural needs; (3) sketching the broad outline of a society in which these needs are recognised; and (4) indicating possible routes towards this goal.

Their revolt from the centre baldly stated is this:

"Between the radical revolutionary movements of left and right the center parties are bogged down in a defence of what exists, even though it cannot exist and be defended without change. What is needed therefore is a third revolt, from the center, a departure from rigid postures."

This sounds straightforward enough, but what the book is actually arguing for is the creation of a humane ecologically sustainable society which, over a transition period of about 60 years abolishes economic growth and competition, differentials in income, and inherited wealth; and in their place constructs a society based on the fulfilment of people's needs,



REVIEWS

production for use, major democratic advances including extensive decentralisation, virtually total social ownership of industry and all banking and financial institutions through co-operatives and nationalisation, a clear linking of education and the wider world of life, the breaking down of the artificial distinctions between economic and non-economic work - so abolishing unemployment along the way, male and female roles, and the workplace and the community.

Parasitic units of consumption such as the nuclear family are no longer held up as the only method of social organisation, with other living arrangements being given an equal chance to develop; multi-nationals are finally tamed; and the peaceful development of the third world replaces the arms race.

If all this sounds rather utopian, it's only fair to say that the programme outlined is clear-headed and detailed, and the authors do not expect miracles. Neither do they expect vested interests to fall meekly into line. Those vested interests get pretty short shrift if they try to defend their privileges. The authors comment:

"There is little doubt that the transitional phase will create many conflicts of interest, but there is still an enormous gap between the measures we suggest and revolution in the traditional sense. In our programme existing capitalists are given a period in which to wind up affairs, slowly and systematically. ... Should it transpire that the majority of capitalists and employers refuse to work towards public ownership nonetheless, then the new production measures will just have to be introduced more rapidly than planned."

Two things stand out about this book. First, that none of the things said nor the vision outlined is particularly new: ecological socialists in Britain have been arguing precisely these points for

years. Second, the very fact that in Denmark these ideas can be seen as the centre of the political debate - as instanced by the enthusiastic reaction to the publication of the book there - rather than being deliberately marginalised and ridiculed by the political establishment and mass media (as they are in this country) says a lot about how much further those in Britain who purport to rule us have to go before they even begin to recognise the long-term and irreversible changes, both on an ecological and socio-economic level, that are presently happening in the world.

This book should be read by everyone who claims to inhabit the centre of the political stage in Britain, as it sets the agenda for an advanced Western nation for the only peaceful way of avoiding violent internal and international conflict in the coming decade.

Martin Stott.

Way ahead

NUCLEAR WEAPONS: THE WAY AHEAD: Ronald Gaskell. Menard Press £1.20

This pamphlet questions our membership of NATO and our belief in nuclear deterrence, and outlines an alternative approach to defence. Beginning with an analysis of the hypocrisies and inaccuracies within the government's pro-deterrent, pro-NATO justification (the White Paper (Defence) of April 1980) it proceeds to crisply dispel the exaggerated myth of the Soviet threat. Along the way it repeatedly shows how the two superpowers present a mirror-image of each other, each acting with the same military lunacy and each blind to this fact. Pointing out the glaring inconsistencies and illogic of deterrence theory, it reveals the mad, chilling assumptions on which it rests.

Having cleared the muddied waters and set forth a convincing picture of geo-strategic reality, the last third of the pamphlet attempts to outline the basic non-nuclear defence options open to us and make suggestions as to the way forward. Here the limitations of the author's imagination and his lack of an ecological perspective to disarmament become apparent. However, as a sketch of possible ways forward this section is a useful introduction to the subject, offering some basic clarifications and not pretending to be a final answer.

Richard Oldfield

LETTERS

Bigotry?

I read Stephanie Leland's article on Feminism and Ecology with great interest. I agreed with the comment concerning the Western system, but I can't say I'm at all sure about the masculine/feminine comments. To me sexism is a bigotry as is racism, class prejudice, etc; and bigotry is wrong.

I do not understand the comment that the words masculine and feminine do not refer to sexual differences. I always thought that these words pertain to male and female in respect to names, grammar, etc. I do agree that this system likes to 'pigeon-hole' everything including the roles and characteristics of the sexes, which I feel is repressive.

I am not sure if this is what the article meant, but I feel that to say the reason that men and women act or live differently is because of their sex is a sexist concept. I am inclined to think that male domination (which unfortunately does exist) has come about through the bigotry of sexism and the biological fact that the male of the species is generally physically stronger than the female. In other words man can dominate woman by physical violence or by threat or implied threat of physical violence, which is clearly immoral.

What Stephanie Leland calls 'feminism' I feel more inclined to call humanism or humanitarianism, bearing in mind that the welfare of the human race can only be divorced from the welfare of this planet's ecology at our gravest peril.

As I stated earlier, I don't pretend to understand it all, so if anybody thinks I have gone wrong I hope they will write in.

Steve King,
6 Church Road,
Worle, Weston-super-Mare, Somerset.

YOUR LETTERS ARE WELCOME!

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT GREEN LINE IS NOT JUST AN ECOLOGY PARTY MAGAZINE. WE ARE WRITING FOR A WIDER READERSHIP AS WELL.

WE HAVE TO TAKE THIS FACT INTO ACCOUNT WHEN DECIDING WHAT LETTERS AND ARTICLES TO PRINT.

YOUR LETTER IS MORE LIKELY TO BE PUBLISHED IF YOU ALLOW FOR THIS TOO!

CHICKENS' LIB is a pressure group dedicated to the abolition of the battery cage for laying hens. Supporters receive regular newsletters, and the group has a wide range of illustrated material to back up local campaigns.

96% of British eggs are laid by hens living in obscene conditions, and there's big money in the business. But public sympathy is such that the movement is seen as a threat by the National Farmers' union. Chickens' Lib is keeping up the pressure on MPs to effect changes through the Ministry of Agriculture.

Chickens' Lib have specialised in buying battery hens before their slaughter and then using them to good public effect.

More information is available from Clare Druce, Chickens' Lib, 6 Pilling Lane, Skelmanthorpe, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire.

NORTH WILTS ECO Party tell us that they receive the Green Alliance commentary on the parliamentary newsletter. It costs £15 a year and is invaluable to their prospective parliamentary candidate and to the branch in general.

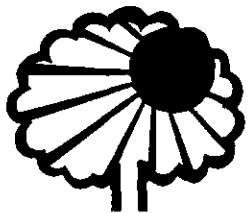
The Green Alliance is at 60 Chandos Place, London WC2 4HG.

NEIGHBOURHOOD ENERGY ACTION produce a quarterly bulletin called Energy Action Bulletin. It costs £3 p.a. The Manpower Services Commission will fund energy advice and conservation projects inspired by the NEA. Further information from the NEA at 26 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3HU.

The first edition of Green Line seems alas to be dominated by the present obsession in some quarters with feminine sexuality. The pseudo scientific pretensions of psychology can never form the base of any sort of analysis of the current trends in British politics or point the way ahead for the Ecology Party.

To obtain mass support the Party needs to pursue policies which deal with the immediate and contentious issues which confront ordinary people, in which they are interested and concerned. Otherwise we shall remain condemned in that limbo to which our enemies now constrain us; as a middle-class orientated fringe group of esoteric cranks who can be safely humoured as need arises.

B G Eales,
29 Upper Belmont Road,
St Andrews, Bristol.



RESOURCES

TURNING POINT is an international network of people whose individual concerns range very widely - environment, sex equality, third world, peace and disarmament, community politics, appropriate technology, and alternatives in economics, health, education, agriculture, religion, and so on. The common feeling is that mankind is at a turning point: the perception that the old system is breaking down, and that new values and new lifestyles must be helped to come through.

The Turning Point newsletter is a veritable mine of information about initiatives being taken worldwide (but especially in Britain) in all these fields. It comes twice a year in return for a 'suggested annual contribution of £1'.

TP also arrange occasional meetings. Their working group on Alternative Health Education met on March 28 (information from Hermione Gowland, 209 Archway Road, London N6). On November 27 the annual TP meeting will be on Health - with the emphasis on how to create healthier ways of living in a healthier society. It will be held at Conway Hall, London - more details nearer the time.

Turning Point is at 9 New Road, Ironbridge, Shropshire TF8 7AU.

Save Heat — Save Money

Get REAL economy for home or business from Heat Recovery Units. Designed for boiler or fire and developed over five years. Pay back their cost in under 3 years by saving 10% plus of heating bills.

Send s.a.e. for details and free information on solar panels, heat pumps, etc.

We would like to hear from others in appropriate technology fields so as to exchange information and experiences.

ALTERNATIVE HEAT SYSTEMS,
15, SANDYHURST LANE,
ASHFORD, KENT.

Grassroots

SO HERE WE go again with the review of what is happening out there in Eco Branch land. The newsletters are trickling in, but I assure you that my postman is by no means groaning under the weight of your correspondence. Is this because I am not on your branch mailing list as yet? Please check, as without your help this column will simply dwindle into nothing. The address is: 46 Hythe Road, Ashford, Kent.

Copies of your press cuttings are also of great interest, so keep 'em coming.

The Eco branches that have contributed to this issue are West Sussex, West Suffolk, three Oxfordshire, Welwyn Hatfield, Bedfordshire, North Kent, and Ashford. Also the East Anglia and South East Areas.

INTO COMMUNITY POLITICS

It seems that Eco branch members are at long last getting to grips with 'community politics' with projects like the Suffolk Countryside Campaign, and town campaigns like the Sevington Protection Campaign. (Sevington is a village just outside the main town of Ashford that is about to be eaten by a daft road and development scheme.) There is also greater involvement with things like local residents' and ratepayers' groups. Which can only be good for our image.

In Bedfordshire they have set up local portfolios (see below) so that they can always be on the ball when challenged. They are well at it in North Kent. When you consider the fact that they cover the area of Chatham Dockyard and have the difficult task of balancing Eco's anti-nuclear stance with the servicing of submarines that the yards used to do, and now the fact that they are closing down, I wonder how they ever managed to prosper - but they are.

And sticking with Kent we come to Ashford (that's me, folks!) where we have begun our run up to the Borough elections in 1983 (yes, that's right, 1983. As yet it's only one ward, but HENWOOD BALANCE No. 1 has just been stuffed through the old letter-boxes and my feet are killing me.

And finally, an observation. The number of times I have read in the

newsletters I've received about how the SDP have stolen our thunder but that it will all be okay when proportional representation comes in is unbelievable. I would like to make two points. First, the SDP did not steal our thunder: we had hardly any worth stealing. There were so many armchair Ecologists in the party that we hardly generated a faint rumble. And secondly, please do not pin all your hopes on PR. There is no guarantee that it will ever happen, and we still have to go out and win elections (of whatever kind.)

REMOTE REGION (AREA)

The idea for a Remote Region came from Nick and Lenora Godwin who live in Berwickshire. The paper they composed seems to have been



Round-up of branch and area activities compiled by Martin Collins and others

knocking around the party for some time before it came to me. Which is, I think, one of the things they were concerned about. On further enquiry I found that they were no longer Eco members. Is this a failing that we could put right by the method they suggest? As the original paper was intended for presentation elsewhere, I have edited it into the following form:

"As Eco members who are (a) situated in a rural area away from an Eco branch, and (b) financially poor, we have become aware of the difficulties of people who are not able regularly to attend branch meetings, conferences, and generally maintain close links with the mainstream of the party." They go on to propose a 'remote region' to cover both the physically remote and those who are caused to be remote by some kind of handicap or the like.

The kind of service they suggest the region provides are: (1) Organisation of postal ballots for conferences etc; (2) Provision of 'advice services' for specific individual problems relating to party business; (3) Lobby for interests of remote members; and (4) the provision of an effective news letter system.

Remember that this proposition was

made some time ago - and although the situation has changed to a certain extent, I wonder if it has done so sufficiently to keep people like Nick and Lenora in Eco.

BEDFORDSHIRE PORTFOLIO SYSTEM

The way they have set this up is good and deserves wider airing. Hopefully it will inspire others to do likewise. From their newsletter:

"It was agreed that we must always be ready to respond with an Eco perspective on any subject that becomes an issue locally. We must establish a reputation for sensible, carefully considered comment, and this can only happen if we develop our knowledge in the various areas embraced by Eco-politics.

"A portfolio holder might be expected to:

- (a) start a suitable filing system;
- (b) insert at the front of the file a statement of Ecology Party policy for the subject of the portfolio, and to up-date it in the light of conference resolutions;

- (c) receive for filing reports, articles, etc on the subject of the portfolio supplied by members, who would be asked to widen their reading and to cut out or copy any reports or articles which they think might be important;
- (d) try to annotate their file for easy reference;
- (e) develop their knowledge in the subject of the portfolio;
- (f) respond, with supportable facts and evidence, to newspaper/media reports and letters. The objective would be to provide an Eco perspective on any topic, and develop for the Ecology Party a reputation for sound common sense;
- (g) prepare from time to time brief summaries or discussion papers on the subject of their portfolio to familiarise members generally with the essential points about each subject. These could appear in our Forum column;
- (h) prepare proposals for branch discussion in those areas which appear to require a change in Eco policy. Once branch agreement is reached, this could result in a branch motion being submitted to Conference.

"Naturally, any portfolio holder would be free to step down at any time and hand their file to another member."

NORTH KENT'S 'CASH FROM RUBBISH'PLAN

The Gravesend and Dartford Reporter of Friday February 19 carried as its front-page lead story local reactions to North Kent Eco's recycling proposals. The opening paragraph says:

"A London-based firm has offered to invest up to £350,000 for a rubbish-processing plant at Gravesham. This is the early encouraging response to the North Kent Ecology Party's proposal to set up a recycling industry."

The article then goes on about the local interest in the idea. I have been asked to mention, by North Kent Eco, that the paper got a little carried away with things, and that the old 'journalistic licence' should be accepted. What this does show is just how hungry local papers are for stories - especially the free ones. Martin Sewell, NK Eco's press officer, has offered to let anyone else into his secrets of the press. You can contact him through me if you wish.

Staying in the North Kent area, there is word about that the pile from a decommissioned nuclear sub is to be embedded in concrete and left in the then derelict dockyard. The Medway towns are the most densely populated bit of Kent, and I find the idea of a nuclear pile in their midst pretty horrifying. How true this is I can't say: but I think it needs an airing.

YOUNG ECOLOGY PARTY

This suggestion came from Derek Wall of Corsham Eco. I think this idea needs a lot of discussion before anyone does anything silly: so correspondence on the subject, please. My personal view is that youth wings of political parties are a mixed blessing. Having been a member of the Young Socialists (briefly), Young Liberals, and Young Conservatives (for the snooker, honest), I can say that they tend to get in the way. This is not necessarily a bad thing: but I would hate to think that Eco has become so old and boring that young people want to divorce themselves from it.

AND FINALLY, FOLKS

Is there Eco life north of the Wash? Because if there is I haven't heard from you yet. (Not to mention Wales, Scotland, Ireland, Cornwall, Isle of Man, Channel Islands, Orkneys, Shetland, and Thanet.)

Election Reports**Crosby**

Readers may like to recall that Labour lost 10,000 votes and their deposit at Crosby: it's good to see the 'big' parties forfeiting their deposits - perhaps it will discourage them from raising the cost! But it was a disappointment for Eco given that the Crosby vote in 1979 had been among the highest Eco polled anywhere - 2.4%. In the two years Crosby dropped 1,000 Eco votes and polled 480 (.83%).

Richard Small says he was 'disappointed but not surprised' at the result. He expects to regain 500 or so votes by the general election as people see through the SDP. Eco had no time to canvass (the election was called just three weeks before polling day), but used the free post to leaflet almost the whole area (36,000 leaflets). He reports very fair local press coverage, but no mention in the nationals: attempts at Eco election meetings drew little interest, but more people attended meetings arranged by CND and the World Council of Churches which Richard describes as having been profitable.

The election as Crosby tackled it cost £288 for leaflets and £150 for deposit. They received a total of £280 in donations and from the party's by-election guarantee fund, and £100 worth of literature from the national party.

Milton Keynes

Alan Francis stood for Eco in the Woughton Ward of Milton Keynes Borough Council in January. In a four-cornered contest the Tory lost the seat to Alliance (a Liberal who has stood several times before). Alan polled just 30 votes (2%), a disappointment after much better results in other wards last year. His leaflet spelt out national policy in two columns, 'Are you FOR' and 'Are you AGAINST', beneath the heading 'We live in a changing world - where do you stand?' Local policies included reducing bus fares and community facility charges for the unemployed.

The Guardian reported the Milton Keynes result, but failed to mention the Eco candidate: instead they split Alan's 2% and gave 1% extra to the Tory and Labour candidates! So it was no accident. Letters to the paper drew no remedy: only after Alan Francis wrote to the Press Council did the Guardian print the correction...

STOP PRESS !!

GLASGOW HILLHEAD: Eco vote 178 (.59%), came 7th out of 8.

SOUTH BUCKS DISTRICT COUNCIL:

Burnham No 4 Ward (by-election on March 25). Con 842 (44%); Lib 611 (31.9%); Eco 235 (12.3%); Lab 225 (11.8%). Eco candidate was well-known local first-timer. Evidence suggests that in terms of percentage of their vote lost to Eco, Con lost most and SDP/Lib least.

Cheltenham

Harry Kemp's 9.3% poll in a municipal by-election in Cheltenham (reported in last month's Green Line) was earned at some cost to Eco principles, claims another member from Cheltenham, Grenville Sheringham. In a letter to Green Line Grenville says, "I did not feel the leaflet was an honest expression of Ecology Party views. The ward was strongly Tory and so, argued the candidate and his agent, the leaflet had to be 'slanted' towards Tory thinking in order to win votes... Where," he asks, "do we draw that thin line between vote-catching glib phrases and honest statements of Eco-philosophy?" He continues:

"If we stand for election to a local council, we should be saying to the electorate of that ward: 'These are the principles of the party for which I stand. If you support those principles, vote for me, and I will represent your interest on the council.' If we present to the electorate only those policies that are fairly innocuous and pad them out with vote-catching generalities, then we are winning votes under false pretences."

The leaflet in question dealt solely with local issues, almost all of them within the ward. It advocated 'good old-fashioned common sense as the best approach to local problems'.

Raising funds

DEREK DIXON, a member of the Southern Lakes branch, is running in the Gillette London Marathon on May 9. He wants branches to collect sponsors for the 26.2 miles he expects to run - in Eco colours! Any money raised should go to the party's fundraiser, Brian Kingzett, at Alltgoch, Gellywen, Carmarthen, Dyfed.

And in TORBAY Dave Bradbury has organised a sponsored cycle ride for Sunday April 18. Participants and sponsors wanted. Details from Dave on Torquay 33229.



Women March to Brawdy

THERE HAS BEEN no lack of support for the women-led peace march from Cardiff to Brawdy which is to take place from May 27 to June 5. The 'core group' is filling up fast, and the march may split along two separate itineraries as far as Carmarthen.

Support can take many forms: entertainment, publicity, transport of children / luggage / tired walkers along the way, joining in the march for part of the way, or just help with funding. The women also hope for a big send-off from Cardiff (9.30 am opposite City Hall) and a good reception at Brawdy.

The march is being organised by the eco-feminist group, Women for Life on Earth. Contact person is Linnie Baldwin, 8 Pantillyn Terrace, Llandybie, Ammanford, Dyfed (tel. Llandybie 850015). The core group of over 50 will be women and children, but men are welcome to participate along the way. All other than the core group must be fully self-reliant for accommodation and food.

At Brawdy, superbly positioned a mile from the Pembrokeshire coast and 6 miles from St Davids, a new peace camp will be founded. It was Women for Life on Earth who organised the march from Cardiff to Greenham Common last year. 'RAF' Brawdy is an American submarine tracking station and another of Britain's prime targets.

At GREENHAM COMMON the peace festival (inspired by Green CND) was a memorable success, attended by some 10,000 people. In direct action which followed it, 34 women were arrested for blocking contractors' vehicles from entering the base. TV film of gentle police action was misleading: at least two women were dragged and kicked during arrest.

March for animals

APRIL 24 HAS been designated 'World Day for Laboratory Animals', and in Britain the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection are marking the day with a demonstration at Porton Down.

The demonstration will take the form of a march from Salisbury (meeting from 11 am at the Coach Station, Castle Street). Coaches will be available for those unable to make the walk, and will also be on hand to return walkers to Salisbury afterwards.

Peace fast

GROUPS IN the US are organising a month-long 'relay fast' culminating with the opening of the UN Special Session on Disarmament. Those taking part agree to fast either until June 7th, or until at least two people have come forward to replace them.

The fast will demonstrate that people are already dying from nuclear weapons, through the resources put into arms instead of food.

People in Britain will be joining the fast as well. It is planned to gather groups together outside US bases and our own centres of government, and to attract supporters in larger numbers on weekends. If you want to take part or need more information, contact David Taylor, 4 Bridge House, St Ives, Huntingdon (0480-63054).

Green Gathering

PLANS ARE well advanced for this year's Green Gathering taking place at Pilton, Somerset, from July 27 to August 1. Each day is allotted a theme, and will be packed with talks, workshops and entertainments. Everything goes - except amplified music!

A ticket for the 6 days costs £9 (£7.50 until June 1) from Robert Fielder, 2 Cross House, Fontwell Magna, Dorset. Admission for the weekend is £5. Children under 13 are free. Special attempts are being made this year to provide a variety of youth activities for older children.

More details soon in Green Line. Meanwhile, plan ahead - and save!

MOLESWORTH PEACE Camp planted trees on unfenced MoD land in a special celebration on March 21. There was no police or military presence.

Frankfurt

THREE MILLION trees are to be chopped down to enable Frankfurt's 'Runway West 18' to be built. As part of the protest hut villages were established in the forest through which the 4½ km runway is to run: the first was evicted at the beginning of November - with tear gas, water cannon, chemicals, and truncheons.

The courts decided that the runway was a national, not a local issue: this meant that the local people had no right to a referendum on the subject. On January 30, eleven days after the court decision, 20,000 people from all over Germany occupied parts of the forest, and the situation resembled a civil war. The media have turned against the demonstrators and represent them as criminals and terrorists. But increasing numbers of people have become more politically aware as a result of the actions. But a sense of hopelessness is creeping in now: the trees are being felled and there is no legal way to stop the building of the runway. Iris Meyer told Green Line:

"Neither party-political power games nor military violence should stop us showing our protest and fighting for the basics of life. This fight is not just against the runway, but against Cruise missiles, nuclear power stations, and the destruction of the earth: our opposition has taught us not just to accept the political decisions taken by the state, because their decisions are made not for us but only for the interests of certain groups."

** Iris Meyer was a member of Eco ** in 1981, and now lives in one of the communal households co-ordinating resistance to the new runway.

In elections in Lower Saxony last month Die Grünen polled 7% of the vote - a fact noted in passing by both the Guardian and the BBC, who describe them as 'environmentalists'. The BBC reporter described the green vote as part of the swing to the right in West Germany ...

Edited at 14 Alexandra Road, Oxford.
Subscriptions and accounts:
16 Lundsfarm Road, Woodley, Reading.
Printed by Parchment (Oxford) Ltd.,
Hurst Street, Oxford.

