

THIS MAN WANTS
AN ARTICLE →
FROM YOU

Sussex Express

Rother's piece of good luck

IN A WEEK that has brought the daunting but not wholly unexpected announcement of a probable 10 to 20 per cent increase in the county rate, it is good to hear of people like Mr John Luck.

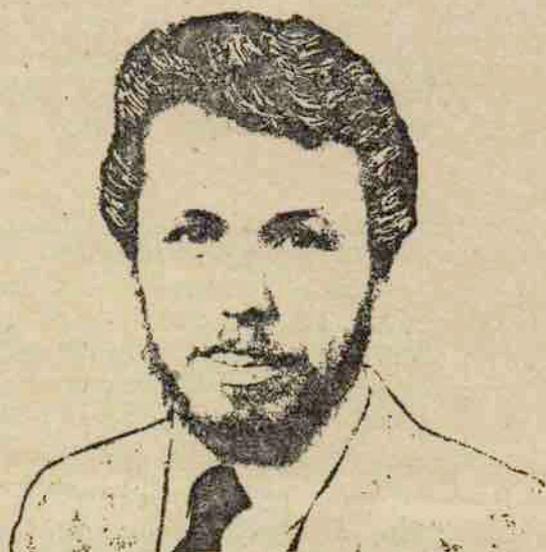
Mr Luck caused a few cynical eyebrows to be raised when he successfully stood for election to Rother District Council on an Ecology Party ticket.

If any of his fellow councillors did not at first take him and his cause seriously, they surely do now. For Mr Luck has saved Rother Council between £5,000 and £6,000.

He did so by pointing out to the council that it was entitled to a Government subsidy to help with a house insulation programme. Mr Luck culled this information from an environmental pressure group called Friends of the Earth. Council officers had not been aware of the subsidy because the Department of the Environment had not forwarded details of it — a Whitehall slip that can be ill-afforded in these times.

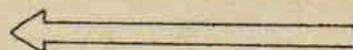
County council chiefs say that they must prune a further £3,000,000 from next year's already savagely trimmed budget if the county rate increase is to be kept to between 10 and 20 per cent. It is a severe example of a dilemma which faces all councils at present.

Astute councillors such as Mr Luck will not win the war against rising rates in one fell swoop. But as we embark on another year of belt tightening, it is the sort of gesture that should be encouraged and applauded.



KEITH RUSHWORTH

JOHN LUCK
MAKES HIS MARK
IN SUSSEX



I DON'T WANNA
BEDTIME FAIRY TALE.
I WANNA KNOW WHAT
YOU'RE DOING ABOUT
MY FUTURE.

EDITORIAL

Response to the last newsletter in terms of articles submitted has been very encouraging, and quite confounds a few pessimists who thought that nobody would write anything. The most curious aspect of the various contributions, however, was that almost every one came with a hint of apology along the lines of "I'm not very good at writing but since you want articles so much here's my effort". People are clearly not filled with confidence at the prospect of writing for their own newsletter. I am reminded of the first time I wrote to the press, about 3 years ago; I think the letter took me about 3 days to write.

In view of this it's probably worth me putting in a few extra words of encouragement; don't worry if your spelling or grammar is somewhat lacking - I'm quite happy to tidy up odd bits like that. Just say what you want to say and let me have it. It doesn't need to be long - in fact short articles have much to recommend them. Anything between 50 and 400 words is acceptable, but if you need more, use them.

Do you have a file in which to keep your newsletters? With the letter becoming an organ for policy debate you may wish to refer back to older issues, particularly if postal voting on policies is introduced (It hasn't been formally discussed yet, but it is a possibility).

The only disappointment regarding articles was the poor showing of reports from groups. Possibly some people were caught on the hop, thinking there was another month before the next letter., so here are the publication dates to prevent future confusion: the letter should appear on the 15th February, April, June, August, October and December. Last dates for articles will be the beginning of each month stated. The short gap between this letter and the previous one results from the previous one being over one month late.

There will not be room in this issue for a specific subs reminder so here it is -- send us your pennies. Please.

For the sake of honesty I should note that the picture of me on the front page is not typical, If you ever meet me wearing a tie and with my hair combed, it's probably election time.

Does anybody have a reasonable type-writer they can afford to give away or sell cheap? Our one seems to have an incurable lean to it. (Witness this and previous letter).

*****NEXT N.E.C. MEETING*****

SUNDAY 13th MARCH. 2.00 p.m.

121 Selly Park Road, Birmingham 29. Tel: 021-472-1088

ALL WELCOME.

WALSALL NORTH: Seeds in Stony Ground.

For an exhausting campaign to end in the small hours of a wet November morning with only 181 votes was a painful experience. For the small army of address-labellers, and for the Party at large, it must have been a great disappointment to see our result in cold print in the newspaper post-mortems. But neither apology nor commiseration is called for, and Walsall may soon be remembered as the somewhat improbable source of our gathering momentum rather than as the sump for our disillusion.

In political terms Walsall North is the stoniest ground we have yet attempted to cultivate - but by the same token the type where we must ultimately succeed if we are to move from being another intellectual pressure group to significance as a political force. The constituency is a microcosm of the ills of our society: a landscape scarred by generations of industrialism, systems of manufacturing, electricity production, transport which beg innumerable questions about waste and pollution, vast housing estates where acres of land could be transformed from desolation to productive plots and where urban decay could be arrested if only people were not oppressed by their harsh environment and so nurtured in dependence on large organisations which they neither comprehend nor care for.

Viewed in that way "only 181 votes" becomes "181 people persuaded of the relevance to their predicament of an unknown party with a distinctive philosophy that rejects conventional wisdom without intolerance". And there can be no doubt that we began to ring more bells than the vote alone suggests. The nucleus of a local organisation exists in the sympathetic response of a group of teachers at a comprehensive school and of individuals impressed by the campaign. The local radio station is aware that we have something fresh to say.

On the doorstep one person in four admitted the essential wisdom of our case, and the widespread but unarticulated concern about our disintegrating modes of life should dispose of the myth that the ecological movement is a selfish middle-class fad. Our name and our message were widely implanted in minds which may then be receptive when we take up local issues in future campaigns, and more generally the fact that we did what we are in business to do, namely to fight elections, has provoked a stream of enquiries and invitations to address meetings.

At the mundane level of organisation we achieved on a shoestring and with innumerable handicaps - - no resident

supporters at the start, countrywide dispersal of helpers, little experience and limited time - - the satisfaction of distributing to every one of 32,000 households an attractive election address, the production of an excellent poster and several intelligent 'instant' leaflets, a knowledge of election procedures and campaign tactics, and the enthusiastic commitment of many people.

So, to everyone who helped, my profound appreciation of your support, practical and moral. And to members at large, a plea not to be disheartened: Walsall was not a dead-end, or an excuse to give up - our cause is too important for that. What matters now is to interpret the experience and employ the commitment. The N.E.C. feels it advisable not to fight another Parliamentary election until such time as a constituency has a well-founded group in the area (though this policy will be under permanent review and needs debate in these pages), but we have the challenge of the County Council elections in May. A goodly spread of candidates then looks feasible and will maintain the impetus of Walsall.

Jonathan Tyler.

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DEFENCE DEBATE GOES INTO GEAR

To put our defence in the hands of a small, heavily armed force not only increases the risk of annihilation by a similar armed foreign power, but also creates an internal threat to democracy.

It is my opinion that the best way to defend the interests of our country is to ensure that it is ungovernable except as a democracy. The best way to ensure that this is the case is to entitle every citizen to training in the skills necessary to wage guerilla warfare, and to set the level of remuneration for those taking training such that the majority of citizens take advantage of the entitlement.

Incidentally, I am sympathetic to the view that what is generally regarded as our main threat i.e. Soviet military strength, stems as much from a fear of 'capitalist' imperial tendencies as it does from any desire to impose 'Communism' on the rest of the world. Such a fear may be unreasonable, but we should not be surprised, considering the overt nature of the imperialism practised by this country in the not so distant past.

Laurence A Thompson, Caithness.

HOW TO DEFEND AN ECO- SOCIETY - Extracts from a lengthy

article submitted by Dean wayland.

Our goal of minimum disruption of the Ecosphere precludes the use of Nuclear, Biological or Chemical (N.B.C.) or "heavy" conventional weapon systems (tanks, bombers, battle-ships etc.). Our defence system should therefore be designed to make their use impractical both for us and any potential aggressor.

Thus, I see a future Defence system constructed like this :-

- 1) A new agreement and organization to replace N.A.T.O. which excludes the U.S.A. and is a purely European effort.
- 2) The creation of a European Self Defence Force with units from all nations who have signed the new treaty. The function of this force would be to spearhead our defence on the borders between East and West, their main task being to neutralize and delay enemy heavy weapons, so as to give sufficient time for the preparation of our main defences.
- 3) They would be trained and equiped to employ guerilla style tactics, thus eliminating the traditional front line and mixing opposing forces in the field, making the use of heavy conventional and N.B.C. weapons a self defeating process as the destruction of one means the destruction of both.
- 4) The main defence consists of Regular Self-Defence and Self-Defence Militia forces organized on a national basis. Every willing and able man and women would serve in the Militia. (Freedom has a price and our regular troops should not pay the cost alone).

This strategy of mass defence should ensure peace, for if we as a whole show that we have no desire to become another Communist state then Russia will, if they have any sense, think twice before going to war with us. The technique of guerilla warfare using sophisticated weapons has as yet to be proved in battle. But interesting clues to its possible effectiveness can be seen from examining some recent wars:

the 1973 Middle East war demonstrated that mere infantry armed with man-portable anti-tank missiles could stop an armoured attack.

the Vietnam war demonstrated that a relatively small and unsophisticated force could defeat a large and highly sophisticated force.

We must also remember that N.A.T.O. is committed to first

strike policy in the event of attack, so that in N.A.P.O.'s own estimation it would only be 48 hours before the first H-bombs were falling on the civilian population.

Finally, as long as an Eco-Society remains non-Nuclear and decentralised the risk of being attacked is much reduced for the following reasons :-

- a) The only way to defeat a resisting decentralised society is to wipe it out.
- b) In military terms there is no justification for launching expensive H-bombs against someone who cannot harm you unless you actually invade his territory.

Dean C. Wayland. Stevenage.

***** NEWS FROM LOCAL GROUPS *****

Devon

A group has recently formed based on Exeter: an inaugural meeting held in January, at which Jonathan Tyler spoke, attracted over 60 people.

Future events include:

- "Economic Growth - What Next?", a talk by a University economics lecturer on Feb 18th.
- A talk by Teddy Goldsmith on March 5th.
- A fund raising disco on March 19th.

We would very much like to put up some candidates for the County Council elections - however none of us are able to stand ourselves for a variety of reasons. If anyone in Devon reading this would like to stand, please get in touch with me as we can offer support, funds, ten canvassers we just need a candidate.

Peter Frings
3 Mowbray Ave, Exeter.
Tel: 52857.

Leeds

The present count of candidates in and around is 5, one

being in Bradford, the remaining four in Leeds itself. One of these, Stephen Waldenberg, is running on a joint Liberal Party-Ecology Party ticket. Concern has been voiced about this both in the N.E.C. and in Leeds Branch, but on balance the feeling is that we have more to gain than to lose. Stephen will be fighting the same ward which he previously fought as a "pure" Liberal and has moved towards the Ecology Party largely as a result of having an Ecology candidate stand against him last year.

Meetings are now being held fortnightly, with fundraising being a common discussion topic. The candidates have already chipped in £100 but we naturally need more.

Pre-election leafleting has already started in one ward using A5 size leaflets (half the size of this page) which are cheap and yet have space to say quite a lot. An A4 leaflet (the size of this page) is under preparation for use in one other ward.

A fund raising party is being held on Saturday 5th March. All welcome. Members from outside Leeds £2 including wine, women, song and overnight accomodation. Bring sleeping bag and toothbrush.

Rosettes are being made in Brown and Green as at Walsall.

Keith Rushworth.

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LOCAL ELECTIONS --- 5th MAY
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The total number of candidates firmly committed to stand so far is about a dozen. These are five in and around Leeds, three in west Midlands, two in Hereford and Worcester, one in London and one in Sussex. (This may not be quite gospel since without local group reports it's difficult to know exactly what's happening). John Davenport, Campaign Officer, reports a steady trickle of enquiries and several people in addition to those above are actively considering standing.

Nomination papers can be collected from the 31st March and must be completed and delivered by 13th April, so there are about 6 to 8 weeks left for people to make the "big decision". Like Christmas, local elections only come once a year (less in some parts) and so far as I personally am concerned, they are much more fun. Further, according to O.E.C.D. there will only be eight more of them before the next major

oil crisis. We hope, therefore, that nobody who has even half a mind to stand or knows someone else who might, will let this opportunity slip away.

Ring John Davenport (or anybody else on the N.E.C.). This is what we are in business for.

DOORSTEEFING AND MEETINGS

Is the Party right to play down the role of public meetings and doorstep canvassing, as Keith Rushworth does in the December newsletter? To do so will hopefully encourage more people to come forward as candidates, but the point is in danger of exaggeration.

The Ecology Party is about people in communities. We shall never succeed, nor will we understand our potential constituency, their thoughts and problems, if we perpetuate the superficial and manipulated business of leaflet and telly to which democracy has largely been reduced by other parties. On the contrary, we must demonstrate our freshness, our integrity and our humility out there among the people who suffer the nastiness of our present system much more than most of us do. Fighting Walsall left me in no doubt of the two-way educational stimulus of meetings and doorstepping (one meeting was proportionately as well attended as those of Cabinet Ministers), and in any future election I fight I shall use the same methods. A Party which talks of community must communicate warmly, deeply and regularly within the community.

Jonathan Tyler.

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VALUE FOR MONEY: THE POSSIBILITIES OF A DUPLICATOR.

It was only just before the last N.E.C. meeting that I realised the huge savings that the Party might make by producing its own election material on a duplicator. Having had no time to work out detailed costs I was asked to prepare something for this newsletter on the possibilities.

I produced the front page of this Newsletter partly to learn more myself about duplicating and to give some idea of the results that might be achieved. The page shows how a duplicator can copy various headline type faces, a photograph, a composite cartoon and a shoddy piece of newsprint. (with all due respect to the Sussex Express and County Herald their newsprint was just that). Essentially, there is no difficulty in producing leaflets comparable to page one without the appalling set-off (the fault which makes it possible to see page one through on page two).

Clearly duplicated work can never be the same quality as printed work. The question is whether the extra cost of printed work is justified by the higher quality. The figures below show comparative costs for ten candidates getting their printing from cheap printers and a party owned duplicator.

Cheap Printer

At £9 per 1000 A4 leaflets plus £5 setting up, for a ward of 16,000 electors costs £77.

For ten candidates costs would be £770.

Party Duplicator

Detailed breakdown on cost for ten candidates:-

Duplicator	£370
Paper	£176
Ink	£ 48
Stencils	£ 15
Despatch	£ 20
Total	<u>£629</u>

The saving in the short term is only about £140 (only?), but in following years the saving would be enormous. Our printing costs would effectively be reduced in future elections from £9 per thousand to about £3 per thousand. To put it another way, by sacrificing quality to some extent we could fight three times as many elections at the same cost.

we dont have enough money in the kitty at the moment to carry this out, but our bank is happy to give the Party whatever overdraft it needs. Peter Pout has volunteered to do duplicating, and I am prepared to put the stencils together.

Clearly a decision to do this would best be made before the next N.E.C. meeting, which is not until 13 March, but this could be done with the help of the G.P.O. Views from other Party members would be very welcome, as well as donations from anybody who wishes to actively support the idea.

Keith Rushworth

ADDRESSES

John Davenport, Campaign Officer & Membership Secretary.
2 The Old Vicarage, 26 Main Rd, Kempsey, Worcs. 0905-820489

Clive Lord, National Chairman
.44, Upper Batley Low Lane, Batley, W. Yorks. Batley 472767.

Keith Rushworth, Newsletter Editor and
Christine Rushworth, Treasurer
8 The Mount, Alwoodley, Leeds 17. (tel. 0532-672198).

Eric Jones, F.R.C. Convenor.
18 Buttermere Close, Anston, Sheffield.

EP supporters generally assume that the left/right split is not a problem within the party. There have however been occasions when two separate camps showed up quite sharply. Not only would it be futile to ignore this question, but I believe that the party has much to gain from a thorough airing.

As I see it, the EP at present consists of two ideological groups, each of which is either unaware of the other due to our scattered membership, or each thinks the other can be disregarded for various reasons. I call these two factions the Eco-socialist and the Self-sufficient.

The Eco-socialists believe in redistribution for its own sake, and they have grasped that zero growth is a compelling reason for this. They see co-operation as the key and stress the fundamental conflict between ecology and commerce, though they are reluctant to admit the associated conflict between ecology and full employment at high wages.

The Self-sufficient group believe that the sustainable society can be achieved and made to work only if everyone is given the wherewithal to pull themselves up by their own bootstraps, and then required to do just that.

These two camps are not logically exclusive. Many socialists support the 'work ethic' - they believe in sharing, but only among those who have contributed what they can to society. Meanwhile the Self-sufficiency wing accepts that co-operation and equality of opportunity make sense, and concedes the need for deserving exceptions to the 'Bootstrap' principle. In practice however, these two approaches will be as divisive within the Ecology Party as they are in society at large.

There comes a point where socialists are revealed as trying to reduce differentials - and hence stifling initiative - regardless of ecological justifications. On the other hand the clamour against scroungers is getting louder precisely when employers can find less and less for them to do. The 'Bootstrap' approach will not work unless you ruthlessly suppress any vestige of compassion, as any Poor Law Commissioner could have told you 100 years ago. Unless of course you go for growth! Already ecological constraints are sharpening the traditional political split, and it is the National Front, not the EP, which is gaining the most ground from 'our' crisis.

The tragedy is that the eco-movement could easily avoid this split, and quickly become a major political alternative. How? The answer is already in the EP Manifesto, though I fear that few seem to grasp its significance. The Social Welfare section outlines 5 possible strategies:

1. The Bootstrap approach: the family provides or you starve.
2. The Poor Law: Bootstraps with a self-defeating attempt at deserving exceptions.
3. The present Welfare State: aid if you don't work - none if you do.
4. A National Income (known also as Tax Credits, or Negative Tax).
5. Equal incomes as an ideal (Socialism).

There are many reasons why Strategy 4 is ecologically preferable to the others; but the urgent practical advantage is that it brings both sides together: the sharing of necessities alongside competition - and effort - for things that make life more than a mere struggle for survival. One of the objections raised to Strategy 4* can be answered simply: far from being a 'Scroungers Charter' - we have that now - a National Income combines security with a work incentive even when there is less work to be done! Strategy 4 could be a base for our onslaught on growthism. Instead, the socialists divisively insist on socialism, whilst the Self-sufficient apparently ^{only} trust people to work for sheer grim survival. Actually Strategy 4 will achieve their objectives better than Bootstraps*

* Two papers going into detail are available from me, price 10p each + postage

NOTES FROM THE N.E.C. MEETING ON 16.1.77.

N.E.C. 'BYE- ELECTION'

Colin Fry and Elizabeth Lavenport having resigned from the N.E.C., Alan Kirby (London) and Peter Rout have been co-opted to replace them.

Policy Review Committee

Tony Squires regretfully having declined due to other pressures, this now consists of Steve Lambert, Peter Sizer, Tom-Greaves & Eric Jones, who will convene a first meeting. Alan Kirby is a possible 5th member.

1975-1976 Accounts

These were referred back by conference. Peter Sizer hopes to present them shortly.

1976 Amendments to Manifesto

Sorry, there is a delay in preparing these. Another case of the N.E.C. trying to soldier on without asking for help. But this has now been seen to. Stocks (price 10p plus postage) will be held by C. Lord, P. Rout & K. Rushworth.

Forthcoming Conference Notifications

A Consoe open conference in Sheffield and Turning Point (Conway Hall, London) clash on 23/24 April. More flag showing needed.

Letter to Australian P.M.

A reply has been received from a letter, drafted by Alan Kirby and sent to the Australian P.M. in the Parties name. The reply was long but contained little or nothing worth repeating.

1977 Conference

The 4th Annual A.G.M. and Conference has been provisionally fixed for 24/25 September. Venue: either Birmingham or London.

Clive Lord.

***** WRITE EARLY FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER*****

CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISMS FROM A NEW MEMBER OF THE PARTY

This article has been specifically written to stimulate debate and eventual action.

As a new party member, I wish to make the following criticisms:- these concern the Party title, its literature and its lack of self publicity.

1) The Party Title

In my experience the term 'ecology' is little understood by those outside our movement and its use as the Party title only serves to confuse the mass of the people. It is therefore my opinion that the Party's title should again be changed. The title I am submitting for this debate is the "Survival Party". There is an alternative to changing the title and I will deal with this at a later stage in this article.

2) Literature and Language

we must remember that we in the ecology movement represent the better educated (whether by self or educational institution) sections of the population, & as such tend to use language that is little understood by the majority. Therefore a massive programme of simplification is vitally necessary if we are to get our message across and thereby gain power.

As well as simplification, a programme of "hardening" of language is also necessary. In my view current literature is too "soft", and as such does not stimulate the reader's imagination as I believe it must to be effective. We must shock, humour and terrify the public over to our standpoint.

we must remember that the only weapon in our arsenal are words and we must use them in the most effective way to ensure victory, and not waste them.

3) Publicity

The Party has placed too high an emphasis on electioneering and far too little on "self publicity". The Party appears, at least to me, to be relying on the media covering these elections to spread the news of a new party. As we know, they don't. If you want something done you do it yourself and I believe that the Party should embark on a programme of "self publicity". This in my view is the only way we'll get the message of our existence across to the public.

Also a sufficiently effective programme will make part 1) unnecessary, as it would make the word 'ecology' more common and better understood, but personally I still favour a change for I feel that the "Survival Party" is a title that expresses our cause much better than the "Ecology Party", after all we are fighting for SURVIVAL.

Dean C. Wayland, Stevenage.

Dean also adds that he does not support a change of Party colours, particularly to Brown & Green.

? ? ? "Daddy, what did you do in the May '77 elections ? ? ?