

GreenOptions

Richard Oldfield, Editor

Spring

A Journal for Decentralist Greens

Issue No. Four

THE BIOREGIONAL WASH THAT'S GREENER THAN GREEN?

I was in San Francisco to attend the 6th Assembly of the Fourth World, the 4th World being greatly concerned with issues of decentralisation, power relationships in society and radical

This is the first of a two-part look at Bioregionalism. What is it? And what is its relationship to the wider Green movement?

Along the way, the criticisms made of bioregionalists - and the criticisms they make of the Green movement - will be brought together and assessed. What positive lessons can Greens learn from bioregionalism, and what is best rejected as extravagant, mistaken or even dangerous bioregional hype?

The article stems from a recent visit by Richard Oldfield to California and a meeting there with bioregionalist Peter Berg of the Planet Drum Foundation.

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- * IVYBRIDGE GREEN GROUP. PLUS LETTERS, NEWS-SHORTS & "CONNECTIONS".

community politics. A supporter of the 4th World Foundation had kindly offered to help me with some of the travel-costs involved. However, more of that Assembly and the 4th World (and indeed of the USA and the U.S. Green movement) in another issue. For whilst in the Bay Area, I also called in to see Peter Berg, prominent bioregionalist and a director of the Planet Drum Foundation* (PDF). And thereby hangs this tale.

WHAT IS BIOREGIONALISM?

The PDF has been developing and

NUCLEAR POWER - NO THANKS!

Almost half the population is prepared to pay more for electricity in order to phase out nuclear power, according to an internal opinion survey commissioned by the nuclear industry and leaked to Greenpeace. For the first time, the number of people prepared to pay extra to get rid of nuclear energy is greater than those who favour it as a way of keeping electricity prices down. Between 1985 and 1987, the proportion of those in favour of nuclear power dropped by 10 percentage points to 43%, equalling the number who oppose nuclear energy. The number of those willing to pay more rose by 10 points to 46%. Pro-nuclear support is weakest amongst women, only 32% compared to 53% of men.

Without prompting, 31% of those questioned nominated nuclear power as the nation's worst environmental offender, and two-thirds think a Chernobyl-type accident could happen in Britain despite assurances from the industry. Source: The Guardian, Feb. 29th '88.

communicating the concept of bioregions since 1974. Bioregionalism is sometimes called "The Politics of Place", because it involves a deep commitment to living in, understanding and becoming part of a *specific and unique* geographical area. Peter: "It means becoming native to places again, to live in them as though you were native to them ... to identify the native plants and animals, watersheds, climates, soils, and to carry on your life in such a way as to relate to those things, to get work in those fields, to restore salmon streams as a way of life, to be engaged in permaculture as a way of life. It's definitely the case that the ecological context is paramount for bioregionalists."

"Reinhabitation" is a word coined by bioregionalists to describe this approach. People not actively involved with that which is ecologically sustainable in their area are considered tourists, just visiting. In his book, *Dwellers in the Land - The Bioregional Vision*" (1985), Kirkpatrick

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ITALIAN NUCLEAR NO

Italians were recently asked in a national referendum whether their existing and planned nuclear power stations should be abolished. It was held after Italy's Green Party launched a petition in the wake of the Chernobyl disaster. Two of the three main parties, the Socialists and the Communists, backed the referendum as well.

The public voted to abolish three laws that have until now governed the country's activities in nuclear power. One of these allowed the national electricity utility (ENEL) to build power plants without obtaining approval from regional governments. Local authorities will now be given a power of veto. A second law allowed ENEL to pay "compensation" to communities with nuclear plants. Parliament must now write new laws to replace these, with officials saying these should reflect the voter's wish to reject nuclear power.

Although Italy only has 3 commercial reactors, supplying just 1% of its power needs, 80% of its energy is imported, much more than other European countries. So although all three major parties backed abolition of these laws, they may engineer replacements that could allow domestic nuclear plans to proceed.

The 3rd law voted down permitted ENEL to participate in foreign nuclear programmes. At stake here is Italy's one third stake in Superphoenix, the world's largest fast breeder reactor, at Creys-Malville in France. Italy was also to contribute a third of the cost of SNRZ, W.Germany's proposed fast breeder, whose future was already uncertain. The future of the next generation of fast breeders in Europe is also in question after the vote.

However, the legal nightmare of extricating Italy from Superphoenix - involving complex patent-sharing agreements with France and other partners in the project - could lead Italian politicians to give ENEL back its foreign nuclear projects in replacement legislation to be drafted next year.

If the politicians stick to the referendum result, Italy would thus join Austria, Sweden, Denmark, Greece, Norway, Portugal and Luxembourg as "non-nuclear" nations, adding to the strong pressure for

Switzerland to follow suit in a forthcoming referendum next year.

So in theory, the referendum means that Italy must shelve plans to build more domestic nuclear power plants and withdraw from Europe's fast breeder reactor programme. However, some believe that in practice the only casualty may be Europe's fast breeders.

Source: New Scientist, Nov. 12th; FoE Supporter's Newsletter, Winter '87

GREENHAM WANDERERS 1 MoD 0

Women camped around Greenham Common are wandering freely into and around the US air base following a court judgement which ruled they were not trespassing because the Government's bylaws forbidding them access had been invalid since their introduction by Michael Heseltine in 1981. Judge Lait made his ruling because the

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1892 Military Lands Act states that no bylaw made under the act shall authorise the Secretary of State to take away or prejudice any right to common land.

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) is deciding whether to appeal to the Divisional Court. Hundreds of women have been convicted of trespassing on the base. If the ruling is not overturned, they could have their convictions quashed and could claim damages, especially since some women were sent to prison for refusing to pay the fines imposed.
Source: The Guardian, March 3rd '88.

NUCLEAR POWER FROZEN OUT

The World Resources Institute in the USA reports that if all the US fridge-freezers were replaced with the more efficient models available in the market, the energy saved from this alone would equal the output of 18 large nuclear power stations.

Energy efficient technologies could halve the demand for power in Western countries.

Source: "Challenge" - Newsletter of the Liberal Ecology Group and SDP Greens - Winter '87.

SWISS DEMOCRACY

The people of Switzerland can directly influence policy directions by conducting an "initiative". 100,000 citizens have to sign a petition asking for a referendum on a particular question (within one and a half years). It must be witnessed by the authorities. The proposed bill is then presented to Parliament which must submit it to the people's vote in a referendum. This is a very costly and exhaustive (but common) process in Switzerland. A forthcoming referendum asks whether Switzerland should be constitutionally forbidden to have armed forces of any kind whatsoever. It has little chance of a majority vote, but is being used as a consciousness-raiser. A referendum on nuclear power is planned for 1988, when there will be strong pressure on the Swiss to follow the "non-nuclear" example of Italy, Austria, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Luxembourg, Greece and Portugal.
Source: Peace Magazine (via Simply Living magazine).

*Details from: Gruppe fur eine Schweiz ohne Armee, Postbox 221, Ch-8307 Effretikon, Switzerland.

WOMAN CHIEF

Turkey, an overwhelmingly male-led, Muslim country, has appointed its first woman head of a district police station. Superintendent Nazli Senlik is in charge of three deputy superintendents and 48 officers.

Source: Guardian, Dec. 12th '86

FATHER FACILITY

A special father and baby room has been opened in a men's lavatory in Birmingham city centre after requests by the council's Women's Committee. Two similar rooms have already been opened at women's public toilets.

Source: Guardian, Nov. 27th '87

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Bioregionalism washes greener than Green?

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Sale writes of bioregionalism in essence as a bid to "know the earth fully".

" ... two distinct ... perhaps even rival ... ecological movements seem to be shaping up in the USA."

A bioregion can be defined as "a geographical terrain and a terrain in consciousness". As a physical area, it is distinguishable from other areas by natural features such as rivers, hills, soil-types, the particular attributes of flora and fauna, and by ethnic human settlement patterns. Bioregions of course vary in size (in fact up to the planetary biospheric level), and even the smallest usually contains several water-shed areas - each seen as forming its own natural "political" unit. As a "terrain in consciousness", a bioregion encompasses the ideas that have developed about how to live in it, and includes such things as the dialect, culture and history that a particular area has given rise to. It also includes the need for a *new* politics and culture that emerges from the land itself, and for the evolution of regional identities without regard to conventional political boundaries.

Bioregionalism, like the associated ideas of "Deep Ecology", claims a *bio-centric* (as opposed to an anthropo-centric) viewpoint: seeing humans as *a part of* the natural web of life, rather than *apart from* it or as the most important life-form (or even, for some, as protective stewards of nature). It is contrasted with "shallow ecology", whose adherents are classed as mere environmentalists. Bioregionalists are also concerned with creating the positive alternatives (to consumer and industrial society) in specific locales now, bypassing the old system rather than trying to *reform* it by engaging with "power politics" on the national stage. They consider themselves practical do-ers, working for specific goals in specific places - an attitude which Peter contrasted with

the more *academic* thinkers and "paradigm shifts" theorists of the Green political world: "Bioregionalists are people who work at it, they're engaged in it."

By 1987, according to a survey carried out by the PDF, there were at least 70 different bioregional groupings in N.America (plus bioregional publications and individuals). A map of their various locations and the bioregional areas involved was published under the banner headline "Emerging States" (Spring '87 issue of the PDF's Review *Raise the Stakes*).

BIOREGIONALISTS VS GREENS?

It is relatively easy to understand what bioregionalism is. What is less understandable is the way in which two distinct (albeit over-lapping) - perhaps even rival - ecological movements seem to be shaping up in the USA.

The first of these explicitly flies the bioregional banner and mostly rejects the Green label. It tends to dismiss the ecological concerns of Greens as mere environmentalism and to accuse them of mixing ecological politics with a "grab-bag of left-liberal principles" (Kirkpatrick Sale - see later). Its largest forums are the North American Bioregional Congresses (NABC), which, according to Peter Berg, "can eventually stand as the main voice for a large continent-wide movement." He sees the NABC as the "North American bioregional political body", which "will grow and become more so." Peter himself is certainly interested in "creating a new political framework".

"Many U.S. Greens are hostile to bioregionalism, or don't understand it all, or don't care to." On the other hand "some bioregionalists don't relate to Green politics, or are hostile to it, for any number of reasons." (David Haenke)

This "new political framework" is



clearly intended (see the quotes given above and below, together with those to appear in Part II of this article), as both distinct from, and highly critical towards, the Green movement. Indeed, Peter told me that most bioregionalists "... don't see themselves as being involved with the broader Green movement." Furthermore, in an article entitled *Growing A Life-Place Politics* ("Raise the Stakes" No. 11, Summer '86), he has written that "Some bioregionalists who are also active in 'green politics' feel that they can reach members of that movement and change its direction. No doubt some will be persuaded, but wishful evangelism isn't a good foundation for building coalitions. Truly relevant life-place politics will originate from water-shed councils, bioregional groups and the NABC."

The *other* ecological movement (though most bioregionalists would apparently deny its ecological credentials), is better known, partly through the activities of Charlene Spretnak, Fritjof Capra, Murray Bookchin etc. It is larger, covers a much greater spread of issues and is more akin to the European Green movements. It explicitly flies the Green banner and is co-ordinated through the "Committees of Correspondence" (CoC's).

That a sense of rivalry is indeed a growing factor in relationships between the CoC's and bioregionalists is apparent from the writings (see later) of well-known bioregionalist Kirkpatrick Sale, who sees the general run of Green politics "as a part of bioregionalism, and a potentially important

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part". He goes on to comment: "Most Greens, however, and some explicitly, think of bioregionalism as a part of Green politics".

David Haenke,¹¹ author of a pamphlet entitled *Ecological Politics and Bioregionalism*, was a key figure in the organisation of NABC I (the 1st Bioregional Congress, held in St. Paul, Minnesota in 1984). He has written that "most of the 63 people who formed the CoC's in St. Paul, and who are in it today, don't know much about bioregionalism, or the true ecological foundations of political ecology: Green Politics. We could not educate them in St. Paul, and cannot today. ... Many U.S. Greens are hostile to bioregionalism, or don't understand it all, or don't care to." On the other hand "some bioregionalists don't relate to Green politics, or are hostile to it, for any number of reasons."

Even so, according to Haenke, "There are parts of N.America where bioregionalists do not see a real difference between what they believe and Green politics. This is particularly true in Cascadia: the Pacific North West of the U.S., and the British Columbia Greens and bioregionalists." For his own part, Haenke believes "that Green Politics should be a strategic, transitional, ecologically-based arm of bioregionalism, which has the deepest Green vision of any non-native/indigenous movement on Earth. Very few Greens or bioregionalists agree with this however, or understand it." Even so, he is "still working and organising with both movements, though it's hard with Greens because they understand so little of ecological foundations."

BIOREGIONALIST CRITICISMS OF GREENS

Peter Berg considers the differences and distinctions between bioregionalists and Greens to be very important. In the article cited above he wrote: "There has been some confusion between life-place concerns and 'green politics' ever since NABC I. A few participants have even stated that there is no difference between the two. The distinctions are very clear, however, and should be understood so that genuine bioregional goals can be realised."

"First of all, 'green politics' attempts to cover a more extensive range of areas, but where there are similarities, bioregional directions are much more ... specific. This is obvious in a statement of definition from the initial Green Organising Planning Meeting:

"'Green' politics interweaves ecological wisdom, decentralisation of economic and political power whenever practical, personal and social responsibility, global security, and community self-determination within the context of respect for diversity of heritage and religion. It advocates nonviolent action, cooperative world order and self-reliance."

"Some of the words are the same, but the sense of them is very different. Bioregionalists have a specific direction for 'ecological wisdom': they want to restore and maintain water-sheds and bioregions. Those are the places to which want to decentralise and practice self-determination. Their 'personal and social responsibility' is to meet basic human needs and create sustainable ways to support individuals in life-places. As for extending their goals to 'global security cooperative world order', bioregionalists may well choose to ally with groups and movements which develop effective ways to apply that sentiment, but their own primary effort is to solve problems where they live. (And that may be the best locale for rooting a planetary perspective, after all.)"

"What has amazed me most about the emerging (US) Green movement is that it has so slavishly clung to the umbrella values of the Green Party in Germany and has so clumsily avoided basing its politics on the one thing that the word, the idea, 'Green', should represent - that is ecology." (Kirkpatrick Sale)

"The first NABC recognised this distinction by declaring, 'If the emerging Green political organisation does indeed reflect these bioregional concerns, we urge support from bioregional groups and individuals from around the continent.' If it does, and at this point no unified acceptance of bioregional goals by 'greens' has been stated."

"Another distinction is evident in the way 'green politics' is developing structurally. At the Green Organising Planning Meeting in August, 1984, committees were formed to represent mega-regions based on the compass points in the U.S: Northeast, South, Midwest, West and Northwest. Isn't this the old centralised way of describing territory? All of these regions have several bioregions within them. People have been identifying and seeking to fit into these unique life-places for some time. Do they really need another arbitrarily defined political district? The 'green' structure seems to be orientated from the top down. Bioregional movement groups originate on the watershed level and move up to join in naturally-scaled continental assemblies."

"The most critical difference between the movements may lie with their actual ecological orientation. How much 'ecological wisdom' are they really prepared to accept? Bioregionalists answer, 'All we can get!' They see their lives as intertwined with ongoing natural processes, part of the life of a place? From their biocentric viewpoint, human society is ultimately based on interdependence with other forms of life. They follow that conviction to make choices about which kinds of work to undertake and to oppose Late Industrial degradations. It is not established that 'green politics' followers are similarly committed, and question-

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able as to whether they will become so." However, "... When support for the positions of these naturally-scaled groups is sought, 'greens' may yet prove to be very strong allies regardless of their different emphasis and direction."

ECOLOGICAL VALUES

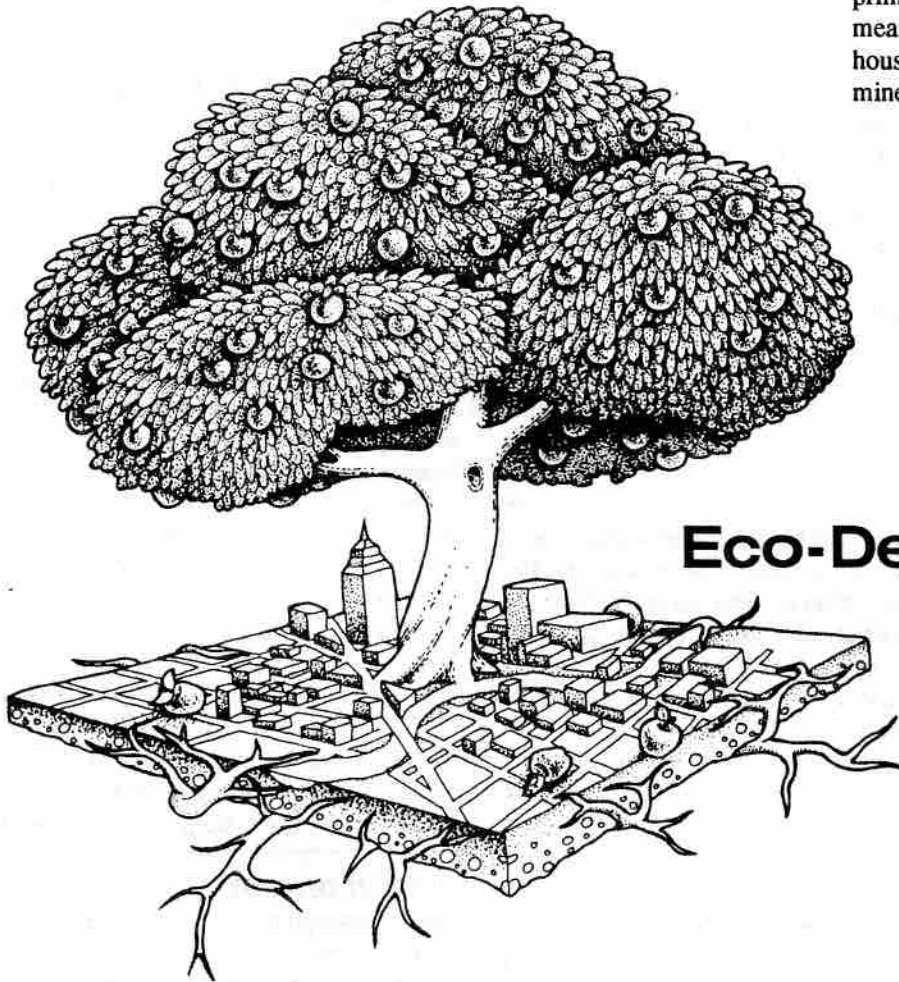
The central values of bioregionalism are ecological values, or 'deep' ecological values if you prefer. Indeed, some might say that bioregionalists are *only* concerned with ecological values. Kirkpatrick Sale, for example, in an article entitled *Bioregional Vision and Green Politics*

"Green *should* mean that one's positions on violence, say, or housing, or social justice, or whatever, are determined not happenstantially, not according to this leftwing whim or that liberal habit, but strictly according to what we can judge would be ecological - i.e., would be best for the restoration and perpetuation of the systems of nature." (Kirkpatrick Sale)

"Green *should* mean a deep-seated feeling for biocentric values, a rejection of the industrial society and the anthropocentric assumptions it makes, an assertion of the primacy of the Earth above all else. Green *should* mean that one's positions on violence, say, or housing, or social justice, or whatever, are determined not happenstantially, not according to this leftwing whim or that liberal habit, but strictly according to what we can judge would be ecological - i.e., would be best for the restoration and perpetuation of the systems of nature."

"Alas, that's not what Green has so far come to mean. And therein lies the central difference between the nascent Green movement and the only slightly more long-

Eco-Decentralist Design



- ✓ new customs
- ✓ watershed and energy planning
- ✓ sustainable communities

(Vol. 43, No.3, 1986 issue of "Green Revolution"), writes: "What has amazed me most about the emerging (US) Green movement is that it has so slavishly clung to the umbrella values of the Green Party in Germany and has so clumsily avoided basing its politics on the one thing that the word, the *idea*, 'Green', should represent - that is *ecology*. But I mean ecology not as just one of four, or two, or 52 values, but the central value, the all-encompassing value, the value that determines how you stand on all other issues."

lived bioregionalist movement. Therein lies the tension that has existed between the two movements from the start - tensions that have not abated in the intervening years in spite of the good will and good works of many who see the affinity of the two groups and would like to make them allies."

"Bioregionalism has its differences and confusions, to, but is united at least in a central commitment to ecological values - that is not 'one' of anything, it is central to all. It

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is imbued with the principles of Deep Ecology and ecophilosophy and bio-spirituality and the like, all of which guide ideas and actions specifically in the direction of respect for, humility in the face of, the patterns and systems of nature. It takes all its positions on other social issues - education, culture, arts, food - from its basic understanding of what an ecological perspective would be. "

Sale views the ecological awareness of most Greens as simply that of old fashioned environmentalists, though he does see the general run of Green politics "as a part of bioregionalism, and a potentially important part". He goes on to comment: "Most Greens, however, and some explicitly, think of bioregionalism as a part of Green politics - just one more ideology from the grab-bag of left-liberal principles that can be run up the Green flagpole. Sure, it's a good idea, and we'll put it right up there along with social justice and nonviolence and feminism - our umbrella is very broad, it can take in almost anything. Sure, we welcome you bioregionalists if that's how you want to identify yourselves, come along and join our coalition, the more the merrier, and let's not be any too precise about what we mean/say/believe/do/practice."

"That way, I am sure, will mean the death of the Green movement within just a few more years. It will fail here as a coalitionist movement just as it is being torn apart in Germany, and for the same reason - though here the failure will be far greater because we don't have a proportional system to

HEINZ U.S. TO OUTLAW DIRTY DOZEN

Heinz U.S. is to stop using ingredients which have been sprayed with the so-called "dirty dozen" pesticides. These include dieldrin, DDT, 2,4,5-T and paraquat. All are under investigation by U.S. authorities. The Pesticide Action Network (PAN) has called for their production, trade and use to be banned worldwide.

Sources: New Internationalist, May '87; International Agricultural Development Vol. 7 No.1 '87 - all via The Environment Digest (June '87).

give it any life at all. Coalitionist politics, as Jesse Jackson is only the latest to find out, at least the kind whose common denominator is so broad as to include almost anything and anyone, will not bring about radical change in this society and in the end will only serve to confuse and disillusion those who try it."

GREENS - JUST MAINSTREAM ENVIRONMENTALISTS?

I asked Peter Berg how many bioregionalists make a distinction between themselves and Greens. He replied, "Some. Not all. But I've got a real history of experience with the bioregional movement - we've been doing it for a dozen years. So I know what the concordances and dissimilar aspects are. Everyone was thrilled by the German Greens. When I found out more about them I was less thrilled, simply because I realised there was something going on that was very similar to something that had *already* gone on here. In that sense, the ecology movement came very late to Germany. "

"Most Greens I've run into don't know a damn thing about the places where they live. Charlene Spretnak, for example, is a paragon of non-information about Northern California." (Peter Berg)

"... There was not an environmental period (in W.Germany) beforehand. There was an anti-nuclear period and whatever, but there wasn't a strong, Rachel Carson, Silent Spring, Aldo Leopold kind of reaction which had quite a history in the U.S. by the time Die Grunen broke out in Germany. So I realised then that to a certain extent Die Grunen was the German *environmental* movement, and not that ecologically orientated."

"... I have met Germans who are very ecologically orientated. ... And I ask them to describe to me who are the German Green movement people. From their point of view the German

Greens are largely fairly straight, professional people. When I ask them if these have a fairly deep ecological consciousness, they say not at all. They have a very new, barely awakened environmental consciousness. They have a clutch of issues, They're anti-nuclear, they're against Acid Rain, whatever."

"Our goal in 1972 was to put human social ideas and ecological realities together. And the way to do to do that was through the idea of a bioregion, seeing where people lived as being the life that contained their lives - literally putting people back into nature. Die Grunen never did that, didn't have the same quest. And the Greens in the U.S. were by and large mostly environmentalist ... "

"... Most Greens I've run into don't know a damn thing about the places where they live. Charlene Spretnak, for example, is a paragon of *non-information* about Northern California. I don't think she has a particular handle on where she lives. ... She knows a lot about the University of Berkeley, academic procedure, but she doesn't know much about Northern California. Even the leadership of the Greens in the U.S. is like that."

"A lot of people that call themselves Greens don't know what bunch-grass is. Cowboys do know what bunch-grass is because cows love it .." (Peter Berg)

UNITY IN DIVERSITY?

Peter re-emphasised an earlier point, namely that some bioregionalists "don't see themselves as being involved with the broader Green movement in the U.S. They are more numerous. Is it important that some of them are and some of them aren't? It's not to me, but apparently it is to you."

RO: "In a way I think it is. I know there are differences, but from my perspective they are differences within what is broadly part of the same movement."

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PB: "Movement Schusment. People come up with a new movement every 14 minutes."

RO: "... all these different types of individuals and groupings - bioregionalists, "Deep Ecologists", Social Ecologists, environmentalists - ought, despite differences, and some cases very deep differences, ought to be attempting to work with each other ... Because for me the old adage of United We Stand, Divided We Fall is a true one. I'm in favour of locally-based, bioregionally-based organisations, people, working together for change ... but whatever it is we're working for, we're up against very powerful forces."

PB: "... There are bioregionalists (the majority) who are so suspicious of the basically "Political" intent, meaning getting involved with a cause for the sake of getting involved with a cause They may be anti-nuclear. They probably definitely would be if you talked about putting a nuke where they live. No question about that. They may be against US intervention in Central America. They may not. They may not have an opinion about it. They may not be for World Peace. They may not think that any formula for World Peace has been derived yet."

"We are the post-environmentalists, this a new furthering. The name of (the PDF) Newspaper is "Raise the Stakes". This is a raising of the stakes. This is saying we want more than that." (Peter Berg)

RO: "May they be red-baiting, virulent anti-communists as well?"

PB: "I've heard anti-communist expressions from all sorts of people. I'm not into caricature. They may be cowboys. They might know what bunch-grass is. A lot of people that call themselves Greens don't know what bunch-grass is. Cowboys do know what bunch-grass is because cows love it - they'll destroy it in fact. A lot of loggers are fishermen. They know that what they do destroys the streams. On the third beer they'll start crying about it. I don't have stereotypes about people. I know a logger that has committed himself to do whatever he has to do to prevent logging in a certain area. That's very important to me and number of people working on that project. And if you think that's red-neckery your *completely* misunderstanding what I'm saying."

"... We are the post-environmentalists, this a new furthering. The name of (the PDF) Newspaper is "Raise the Stakes". This is a raising of the stakes. This is saying we want more than that. What bioregionalists want more of is a locally-based, ecologically orientated perspective relative to basic human needs, natural systems and re-inhabitory systems.

Part II of this article, appearing in the next issue, will examine the other side of the coin, namely the Green criticisms that are made of bioregionalism (and the associated ideas of "Deep Ecology"). It will feature comments from eco-feminist Janet Biehl, social ecologist Murray Bookchin and the editor of the Fourth World Review, John Papworth. In addition to such criticisms, Part II will also look at the positive lessons the Green movement might learn from bioregionalism.

* The Planet Drum Foundation (and Peter Berg) can be contacted via: PO Box 31251, San Francisco, CA 94131, USA. Their tri-annual review, *Raise the Stakes*, is \$20 per year outside the USA.

** *Dwellers in the Land - the Bioregional Vision* - \$14.95 from Sierra Club Books, 730 Polk St., San Francisco, CA 94109, USA.

*** David Haenke can be contacted via: NABC, Box 3, Brixey, Missouri 65618, USA.

**** *Green Revolution: School of Living*, R.D.1, Spring Grove, Pa. 17362, USA.

"If you're involved in education, and even half-way green, then 'GT' is a **must for you!"**
[Jonathon Porritt, Director, Friends of the Earth]

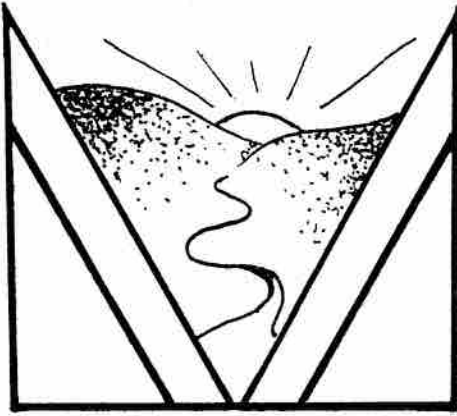


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VIEWPOINT - MARK KINZLEY

What is the green movement's current state of health? Where is it going? Where should it be going? How can the movement develop real "bite"? What strategies should we adopt? What kinds of political and organisational structures should we seek to develop? This is the second in our "Viewpoint" series: a political forum where various people can express their thoughts on some or all of these questions.

In writing this article I am allowing myself the luxury of taking for granted that readers of Green Options already believe in the merits of a small-scale strategy, one more locally-based than anything we have yet seen. To begin at this point really is a luxury, since in other magazines you have to spend time putting a case for the decentralist approach before ending with, at most, one specific proposal. Here I am going to launch immediately into specific ideas. Few of them are new, but putting them all together they make for a comprehensive strategy to radicalise the Green Party, locally, regionally, and at the national level.

THE LOCAL BRANCH

In latter years, the Green Party has taken to calling its branches "Local Parties", and also by area name, as in "Hackney Green Party". This is little more than playing with words, in order to convey that a branch is somehow not a branch. It was the same with efforts of the Devolution Working Group to get a more radical constitution adopted by the 1986 Green Party Conference in Malvern. The result was merely a form of words in the Constitution saying:

"Membership shall be of the smallest appropriate party. Such membership shall automatically impart membership of the Green Party".

Yet in reality, to become a member of the UK Party, subscription money must still go to the UK Party as before, so what is the meaning of the words? As an official at the Party's national office told me on the phone, they are just a form of words to suggest the importance of branch autonomy. He still required my capitation money before he could send me a membership card.

Is it outrageous to think in terms of Local Parties setting their own capitation rates? In the Conservative Party, of all places, the local ward parties administer their own membership, and out of this subscription money they pass on to the national party what they can afford. The Scottish Green Party, which has gone autonomous, has changed the capitation it pays to London to £2 per member. Other areas pay £7 out of a £10 subscription.

So the question is how to manage a real transition from a branch of national party to a genuine local Party. What is required? A Local Party must:

- Have a share in a local magazine in which some pages can be used for communication of Party business to the membership and communication between the membership.
- Have it's own manifesto: comprehensive; credible because arrived at by proper policy-making procedures involving significant numbers of local people.
- Gain control over its own money.

That does not necessarily mean keeping it all, but setting its own capitation rate.

- Be the only administrator of its membership.

LOCAL MAGAZINE

In the London borough of Redbridge, a local magazine was established when Redbridge Green Party approached all local environmental, peace, women's, Third World and animal rights groups. The party pointed out that each group was producing a newsletter for its own members. Why not produce one newsletter in which each group had its own pages? This would be cheaper, and require less effort from less people. It would result in a magazine which would contain all local news and events. Subscriptions could be sold to local people not in any group. Sale of advertising could reduce subscription rates. It made sense, and Redbridge "Green Umbrella" came to be.*

MANIFESTO

Having established a local magazine, it becomes possible to think of announcing a local conference whose theme will be the sustainability of the local area. Local groups submit motions for voting on, just as in any Party Conference. Conference papers can be circulated in the magazine. Over a period of time a comprehensive manifesto, which refers throughout to the local area, will have accumulated. Later conferences might start projects

Viewpoint

to put the policies into practice and actually transform the local economy. The Conference policies could be used to lobby candidates of all Parties, but a Green Party could adopt them as its manifesto.

MONEY & MEMBERSHIP

A local party passes much of its money up to the UK Green Party. When it gets a subscription of £10 it may keep £2, gives £1 to the Area Party and £7 to the UK party. How can a gradual

transition be effected from this situation to one where the local Party sets its own capitation rates?

Local parties have made use of two-tier membership. People can either become members of the UK Party, or simply join the local branch. The constitution says:


"A Local Party may institute any form of local associate membership and encourage associates to participate in its business."

Why not develop this idea to its fullest extent? Set the local branch subscription at £2 or £3 lower than the UK subscription to make it more attractive. Perhaps buy a group subscription to the local magazine for local members to receive. Print Local Party leaflets. In the leaflets give out the local subscription rate, and leave the UK rate unstated, rather than the other way around. Because the Local Party can keep the whole of a local subscription, it will double or treble its

income. No more jumble sales. The Local Party is still free to set itself capitation rates in accordance with its own needs and with the priority it places on the Area party and on the UK Party.

PARTY STRUCTURE

A local Green Party may seem too small an organisation to become an independent party, but we have been under estimating its potential size. The Green party is missing an entire tier of party structure - the ward party. In a borough like Redbridge, the Green Party has one branch. But the Conservative party has a committee in every ward, each with regular meetings, membership administration, fund-raising, an election machine. At the next level up they have a committee of people from ward parties. Why should Redbridge Green Party limit itself to a single group? What happens is that a borough Green Party holds a public meeting to attract new members, gains them, only to find members dropping away again, or becoming passive supporters. The group can only grow up to a limit, and beyond that extra members feel like outsiders to the more intimate inner circle. Nor is there anything between elections for extra members to do. They drop away. Five years on, another public re-launch meeting is held, and the cycle is repeated.



RAINBOW CIRCLE CAMPS

WHOLISTIC EDUCATION FOR A BETTER FUTURE


BELTANE EARTH MYSTERIES CAMP April 29th/30th to May 8th. Near Totnes, Devon. The earth is fully awakened in blossom and the promise of summer is on the horizon. Come and join us in the celebration of this very ancient cross-quarter fire festival. £23 + donations. Kids free.

MUSIC AND DANCE CAMP May 27th/28th to June 5th. Drums, flutes, whistles, violins, voices, guitars, circle dance, African dance, contemporary dance, Universal Peace dance, your dance, my dance, all of ours dance. The joy of expressing our energy together in harmonious blending of sound, form and rhythm. Sliding scale of charges: £30 - £100. Kids free.

GREEN LIFE STYLES AND CRAFTS CAMP July 22nd/23rd to 31st July. Near Swindon. Exploring ways to live in peace and harmony with the Earth, our beautiful planetary home. Sliding scale of charges: £30 - £100. Kids free.

ASTROLOGY AND SELF-DISCOVERY CAMP August 5th or 12th to August 14th or 21st. Astrology can lead us to our hidden depths, show us unsuspected talents and help us use our energy positively. Experiential processes bring alive the planetary symbolism for beginners and seasoned astrologers have the opportunity to compare notes and swap ideas. This year the astrology camp widens its scope to include all processes of self-discovery. Sliding scale of charges: £30 - £100. Kids free.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE CAMP August 26th/27th to September 4th or September 11th. A veritable shindig to end the season! All previous camps will be represented here, together with others that we're planning for the future. A chance to dip into a wide spectrum of alternative themes. Sliding scale of charges: Not yet decided. Kids free.



INFORMATION
Lyn Lovell
18c Frogmal Lane
London NW3 7DT
01-794 7093

BOOKINGS
Barbara Davies
Old Stables
Lescrow
Fowey PL23 1JS
072683 3465

I think branch membership is more limited by the natural limits of a group than by a lack of interested people. Instead, each public meeting should be held at different points in the borough, and new recruits used to establish a ward branch. The original borough-level Party would gradually transform itself into an upper tier made up of delegates and observers from ward parties. In the beginning, the original borough party can lend support to the newly established ward parties by rotating its venue to hold joint meetings with each of them in turn.

REGIONAL PARTY AUTONOMY

There are signs that various regional Green parties might opt to go autonomous. A precedent has been set by the Scottish Green Party, which went autonomous in 1986 (see issue No.3 of *GO* for an interview-report on this process - Editor). The Welsh Green Party is the most likely to follow suit, followed by the North West Area Green Party. As has been reported in *Green Options*, there seem to be straws in the wind that the South West Area Green Party might also move in this direction.

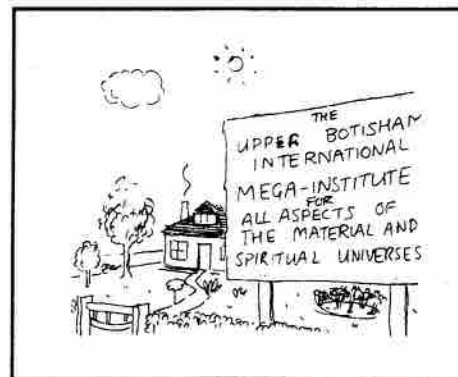
What does regional autonomy actually mean? For the Scottish Green party it means, firstly, a change in their financial relationship to the UK Green Party. Now the Scots are paying less money per member to the UK Green Party than other regions pay. London no longer administers Scottish membership. The Scots now regard *EcoNews*, the UK Party's newspaper, as a "service" which they buy from the UK Party. The Scottish Green Party Conference debates policy, and is developing a comprehensive manifesto. Obviously a regional party will not go autonomous until like-minded people organise together. In the regions listed above there is already a degree of support for autonomy. Therefore, if you live in one of these regions there is every reason to be active in the Green party to be in a position to lend your vote or voice in favour of autonomy.

ELECTORAL DEALS

If you can get into a position in a regional Green Party where your voice is heard, there is another idea worth suggesting for discussion. That is electoral deals with Parties standing for the autonomy of a region. These parties are: The Cornish Nationalist Party (Mebyon Kernow), The Wessex Regionalists, Plaid Cymru, the Orkney Movement, the Shetland Movement."

"Nationally I simply don't believe its possible to have a radical party. But since a UK Green Party exists we must consider what we can do to keep it as radical as possible, if only to preserve enough time for regional party autonomy to come about."

Most, if not all, of these Parties are already sympathetic to green ideas. Nor should a Green Party have any problem in striking a deal by agreeing to policies of these Parties to promote the autonomy of their regions. Seats to be contested could be shared between Parties, and ballot sheets could read, for example: "Mebyon Kernow supported by the Green Party", or "Green Party supported by Mebyon Kernow". Whilst this would strengthen electoral work on the ground, it would also have the effect of promoting the autonomy of Area Green Parties engaged in negotiations under their own initiative. It would lead Area Green Parties to think more in terms of the autonomy/independence of their area, and perhaps about the autonomy of their party.



NATIONALLY

Nationally I simply don't believe its possible to have a radical party. But since a UK Green Party exists we must consider what we can do to keep it as radical as possible, if only to preserve enough time for regional party autonomy to come about.

"The anarchist wing has never organised itself as such, except when a few people came together briefly to put a motion on devolution to the Party Conference."

In the Green Party as I see it there are broadly two points of view: on the one hand the party decentralists, plus the spiritually inclined; and on the other, the pragmatists, and the Green Socialists, who are the keenest on the Parliamentary route. The distinction is only barely there, and exists more in my mind than in reality. The anarchist wing has never organised itself as such, except when a few people came together briefly to put a motion on devolution to the Party Conference. Pragmatists have made a highly conscious effort to organise, calling themselves "Main Green", declaring in (leaked) secret papers against hippy members of the Party, and putting up a slate of candidates (mostly unsuccessful) to take over the Party Council. But again it was a handful of people, and the vast majority of members don't align themselves in any way. Nevertheless I feel that the Party contains both tendencies in latent form, and at this stage would feel no conscious jolt in developing in either direction.

Whilst we hear occasional rumours of moves in the regional Green parties towards autonomy, there is simultaneously an opposite development which threatens to set the Party on a centralist strategy, and in time bring it to a left-wing position back on the old left-right spectrum. At this point regional autonomy would go by the board, as an impediment to efficient national campaigning, an irrelevancy in the pursuit of power.

In the short to medium term there are the Liberals. Greens in the Liberal Party have previously scored successes. Now that a merger is going through, they look completely marginalised, and some are already talking about joining the Green Party. It is hard to see what can follow from the inter-party dialogue now in vogue other than an influx of Liberals to the Green Party. These people will be relatively pragmatist and centralist, and will pull the centre of gravity of the Green Party in that direction.

In the long term, by which I mean 10 years hence, the problem might be Labour. The big question looming in the background is: has Labour gone into terminal decline or hasn't it? Labour is trying to save itself by moving to the centre. An effect of this would be to further marginalise green Socialists in a Party which was furiously selling economic growth. More dramatically, Labour might have gone into obvious terminal decline, in which case some green Socialists might desert to the young and up-and-coming Green Party. This would result in a centralist Green Party.

Ideally, the Green Party should benefit from the support of green Liberals and Socialists, yet green Liberals would stay in their party and green Socialists would stay in theirs. One possibility to have our cake and eat it might be to persuade them of the mutual advantage in starting campaigns inside their own parties in favour of the Additional Member System (AMS) of electoral representation. The Single Transferable Vote supported by the Alliance would screen out the Green Party, with a hurdle of 15% of first preference votes in a 6-member constituency. Under AMS, with the Green Party in Parlia-

ment, the other Parties would have to move in a green direction to try and recapture seats lost to the Green Party. In such a situation, Greens in major Parties would enjoy great influence within their parties.

The prospects look interesting in the Labour Party. At the Party Conference after the General Election enough motions were received on Proportional Representation (PR) to get it debated. The motion was only defeated because it is not clear that Labour can never win again under the present system. But for this very reason, a further election defeat for Labour, after its great policy review, would mean unprecedented support in the Labour Party for PR. The Socialist Environment Resources Association (SERA) already supports AMS, as does Ken Livingstone, who sees that under STV, where a three party system would prevail, Labour would have to move right to compete with the Alliance.

The day after a further election win by the Conservatives would be an excellent day for pro-AMS protest marches. If Liberal or Socialist greens don't want to participate, whilst being so eager for "inter-party dialogue", they should be asked whether "inter-party dialogue" really means keeping the Green Party out of Parliament and recruiting Green Party members to their own Parties.

GREEN OPTIONS

Finally, Green Options itself. This is the first time decentralist Greens have had a magazine of their own. Here they can share ideas, gather into a network. In other magazines, decentralist points of view are either not voiced, or completely ignored when they are. We should each promote Green Options in any way we can.

* A sample copy of Green Umbrella can be obtained by sending two 2nd class stamps to 30 Bathurst Rd., Ilford, Essex IG1 4LA - please ask for a back issue.

** The regional Parties listed are networked by a magazine called "The Regionalist", subscriptions from David Robyns, Flat 3, Asquith Court, Eaton Crescent, Swansea, Cymru SA1 4DN

THE RISE OF INNER-DIRECTEDNESS

The idea of "Inner Directedness" may seem a bit vague to some. However, it's a very real and definite concept to the hard-headed market researchers of the *Taylor Nelson* monitor. They investigate changes and attitudes in society, comparing different countries, and giving advice on the goods and services that people are likely to want in the future. They describe three stages of human development:

- 1) The agricultural era - producing "sustenance driven" values.
- 2) The industrial era - producing "outer directed" values.
- 3) The post-industrial era - producing "inner-directed" values.

According to Taylor Nelson, modern day Category Ones are not just the unwaged and the poor, they are people motivated by security. Category Two people are motivated by esteem and status. They are ambitious and measure their success in material terms. They hold the key jobs in Britain today. Category Three people reject the rat-race conformity era of the industrial era and choose their jobs other than for purely financial gain and status. They may choose research because it is interesting, or reject a promotion because it involves moving. Most surprisingly, this group in Britain represented 36% of the population in 1985 (compared with 33% in Category 2 and 31% in Category 3), and Taylor Nelson predict they will grow to 55% by the year 2010.

Source: Mike Bell, Director of SDP Greens, Oct. '87.

GREATER CO-OPERATION

The number of worker co-operatives and community businesses in the UK increased by nearly two-thirds - from 911 to 1,476 - in an '85-'87 two year period, says the latest edition of the bi-ennial directory published by the Co-operative Development Agency (CDA). The number of enquiries they received trebled to 2,500 over that period. The new co-operative sector now employs about 14,000 people, most of whom are also members of their respective businesses.

CDA, Broadmead Hse, 21 Panton St., London SW1 4DR, price £5.50

REDUNDANT REACTOR

Austria's Zwentendorf reactor, costing \$645 million and never used, is to be dismantled. Austria abandoned its nuclear power programme after a national referendum in 1978. The owners of the plant hope to make \$20-30 million selling its parts.

Source: The Wall Street Journal, 1st June, '87 via The Environment Digest (Sept.)

This is the first of two related articles by Adrian Atkinson. The second, "Decentralising the Energy Economy" will appear in issue No. 5.

WHAT KIND OF DECENTRALISATION?

By Adrian Atkinson

Whatever differences there might be between various branches of the Green Movement, one concept remains virtually universal: the call for "decentralisation". Nevertheless, the meaning of this remains vague or encapsulated in a few images of community living and local self-sufficiency. Very little hard thought has gone into practical proposals and how we might get from here to there. Inside the Green Party there have been apparent "practical debates" about decentralisation through redivision of administrative boundaries and changing electoral procedures to allow greater representation, as a move towards getting the Party elected so it can implement decentralisation.

"... many countries already have the desired election system and all kinds of alternative administrative systems exist, without any very Green Society yet having emerged."

However, many countries already have the desired election system and all kinds of alternative administrative systems exist, without any very Green Society yet having emerged. Obviously what is meant by decentralisation, as the heart of the Ecological Society, must be a good deal more than that.

In fact we might say that the core concept involves a bringing back together of production and consumption, so that we can see what is actually going on between the use of nature and the satisfaction of human needs. However, it is not just a matter of being able to see and understand, but also for all to participate - and not only if we wish, but as necessary responsibility. In other words, decentralised politics is not just about redividing up what we already have, but how we change the whole interaction of society and its use of nature.

"It is true to say that the Green Movement has extended an ideological umbrella which might inspire the development of practical projects in the direction of this sort of decentralisation, but it has done little by itself to move towards this goal."

It is true to say that the Green Move-

ment has extended an ideological umbrella which might inspire the development of practical projects in the direction of this sort of decentralisation, but it has done little by itself to move towards this goal. On the other hand, numbers of initiatives have arisen within existing local authorities, carried out by people who consider themselves to be Liberals, or, more often, Socialists.

Back in the mid 70's, Peter Hain and numbers of Young Liberals propagated for the revitalisation of local communities, through the transformation of local services. Subsequently, Hain migrated to the Labour Party and it has been Labour, at the local level, that has spearheaded practical efforts in this direction.

In 1979 Walsall Council decided to decentralise its housing management in order to become more responsive to the needs of tenants and to involve them in the process of management.

OLDEST PARLIAMENT IS ANTI-NUCLEAR

The Cornish Stannary Parliament, a tin-miners parliament first recognised by King John in 1201, was granted a writ of possession on a former Cornish slate quarry at Reskajeage, near Camborne. The aim is to stop the government nuclear-waste agency (NIREX) from further investigating the mine as a possible dump for nuclear-waste. The writ was granted by the Parliament's own legal arm, the Stannary Court. The Court believes its laws pre-date and outrank Westminster law, but NIREX is taking legal advice as to how they can stop the "trespass" by Stannary Parliament members.

The author Jeremy Seabrook - then a committed Socialist, now a committed Green - wrote a book about the experience entitled "The Idea of Neighbourhood". Since then, a substantial number of urban Councils have initiated some kind of decentralisation of housing management, many setting up local Area Committees that have a significant say in how housing budgets should be spent. And this experimentation has over-flowed into the management and generation of other local services including welfare benefits, environmental health and planning. The process has been far from smooth and many people remain wary of the intention of the Councils involved and cynical of the results. But these attempts at decentralisation cannot be lightly dismissed.

More radical than this have been attempts by some Councils to analyse, and intervene in, the local economy. Before abolition, the Greater London Council was employing well over a hundred people working on alternative economic work and disseminating this, and attempting to initiate projects, through the "Popular Planning Unit". Financial support for projects was provided by the Greater London Enterprise Board, encompassing the London Co-operative Enterprise Board.

"What is striking, is that the Green Movement has on the whole failed to see these initiatives as being potential beginnings of the kind of decentralisation that it is ostensibly calling for."

What Kind of Decentralisation?

Many other Councils around the country initiated similar or related activities and between them funded a servicing organisation called the Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES) in Manchester. A number of local authorities in south east England have recently formed the South East Economic Strategy Association (SEEDS, get it?) to develop local economic activities and push for increased regional and local control over economic affairs, involving increased local participation in decisions and at the same time pushing for racial and gender equality.

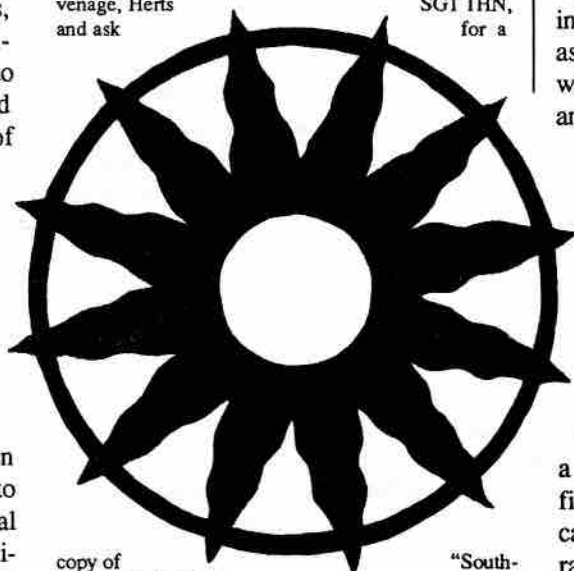
Although Greens (particularly of the SERA persuasion) have been involved in many of these initiatives, nevertheless, they remain predominantly Socialist in flavour: that is to say they are primarily orientated towards redressing the problems of the working classes and more generally the disadvantaged, which is certainly an important part of the Green Programme. However, when it comes to ecological problems - strategic problems of pollution and resources - the thinking is much less cogent.

What is striking, is that the Green Movement has on the whole failed to see these initiatives as being potential beginnings of the kind of decentralisation that it is ostensibly calling for.

One might have expected it to put its weight behind these initiatives, to become involved and attempt to push them further and sharpen up Green thinking in them. That it has so far failed to do this does not, however, preclude it from doing so now. Indeed, my suggestion would be: go to it, now, with a will.

If you want to know more about decentralisation of Council services, send £6.95 (cheques to University of Bristol) to: School of Advanced Urban Studies, Rodney Lodge, Grange Rd., Bristol BS8 4EA) and ask for "Decentralisation and Democracy" by Paul Hoggett & Robin Hambleton; alternatively, ask your local library to order it.

If you want to know more about SEEDS, write to: SEEDS, Daneshill House, Danestrete, Stevenage, Herts SG1 1HN, and ask for a



copy of
South Divide"

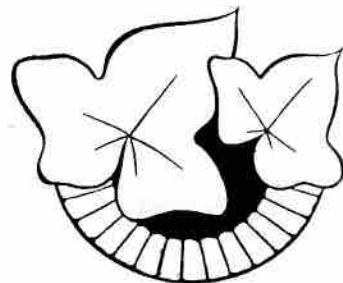
"South-

peace support group, raising money and increasing membership for national Greenpeace.

Throughout the following summer the group had a high profile organising many fundraising events and stalls at local markets and fayres. However, towards the end of September, many of the more active members felt restrained by the "Greenpeace contract". We felt that as a Group many other projects of a local nature could be started. The main trouble seemed to be that Greenpeace tackled national problems from a national viewpoint. They gave little credit to local groups and allowed no local initiatives. From October we dropped the name Greenpeace and emerged as the Ivybridge Green Group.

"Internally the Group is like a restless amoeba, with individuals continually coming together over common interests and dividing over differences."

IVYBRIDGE GREEN GROUP

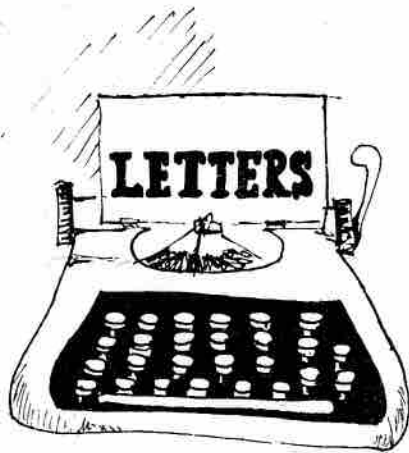


The Green Group is relatively new to Ivybridge, though in its two years of existence it has achieved a lot. As with all new things, we have been greeted with a mixed reaction by the other inhabitants of Ivybridge. Some see us as a collection of political radicals, while others agree with our ecological and social concern.

As collection of individuals, we came together in March 1986 in response to a Greenpeace call for a Street Collection. This first event brought together about 25 people who decided to make a regular thing of meeting to express their concern in positive ways. Our original meetings were a little haphazard as we were still finding our feet as a group. Members came from a variety of backgrounds, ranging from doctors to unwaged to businesspeople. Collectively we decided that we would exist as a Green-

peace support group, raising money and increasing membership for national Greenpeace. With such a diverse membership we wanted to find a way for everyone to feel that they were important and for their ideas and concerns to be expressed. We didn't want any formal leaders, but rather for those most able to emerge and undertake projects. We have been successful in this to some extent. At meetings there is no voting or "ruling majority". Instead, topics and ideas are raised and discussed, with agreement being mutually arrived at.

In practice this can lead to the most vocal members becoming de facto leaders since they become identified as "knowledgeable over certain topics. In addition, those not in paid employment have been able to commit more time to the co-ordination of group activities such as our Newsletter, fundraising and events. To date we have been unable to find a way round this problem. But it is



Dear GO,

I remain much more cynical than Brian Green (Letters, Issue 3) who prescribes a mixture of insight and goodwill to cure our ills. His "leaders of vision" are akin to the Nietzschean concept of superman, and that was the forerunner of Nazism.

I cannot see decentralisation being granted by edict. I believe that it can

only grow from the roots, and this growth has to be encouraged.

In my "Viewpoint" article I attacked the reverence for science because I see the cult of the expert as an obstacle to this growth. The scientific method is not a magic way of discovering truth. Insight, discovery and innovation still arrive in a variety of quirky, irrational ways, as they have always done. The scientific attitude gets used more for authenticating truth, and so becomes another authority. Then, in no time, it is used to cast aside common sense with pronouncements like "We can't stand in the way of progress", and "We have no evidence of untoward effects".

If I am not mistaken, Brian Green advances yet another, which I paraphrase as "Before we start to put matters right, we must find out all about the causes". This is not at all how we behave in our day-to-day life, where we sort things out first, and ask questions later.

We have all been nurtured in a power-centred society, and to kick the habit we need to take a day at a time, little by little. No issue is too trivial. Each offers an opportunity to find out more about our locality, and to establish common ground with our neighbours. And I have found that when you meet with success, it is surprising how far the waves of encouragement spread.

Yours sincerely,

Pam Woodin
2 Castle Lane,
Warwick,
Warwickshire CV34 4BU

LETTERS

Green Options
Lockyer's Farm
Dorndon, Somerset

Your letters are welcome. Please keep them as short as possible.

Continued from over page

generally felt that all those concerned are open to constructive criticism, and the group will last as long as all members are realising their personal and Group goals. Internally the Group is like a restless amoeba, with individuals continually coming together over common interests and dividing over differences.

"... five of our members became local councillors at the Parish Elections last year... So far we have raised many issues in the Council chamber. Each time we are confronted by the lack of real power to affect local community decisions taken by the District Council. However, half the battle is raising awareness of this within the local community..."

In terms of local activity the Group has been highly successful with a number of projects. We have had awareness campaigns on issues such as waste and recycling, air pollution and local amenities. Group undertakings have included a visit to the National Centre for Alternative Technology in Wales, a Conservation Fayre (which attracted a grant from the EEC) and several practical conservation tasks at local nature reserves. At meetings we discuss current social and ecological concerns and sometimes show videos. Such gatherings seem to act as an arena for empowerment, since sharing a fear or concern gives us a greater ability to deal with it. We have links with several other local Groups from the Peace and Green Movement, and support each other's events both in person and

through our newsletters. Currently, the Green Group is preparing for our 2nd Conservation Fayre (last year around 3000 people came and a beautiful atmosphere was generated).

The other major event in the life of the Group was that five of our members became local councillors at the Parish Elections last year. This gave us one-third of the seats on the council and a good platform from which to promote our ideas on community development. We are just emerging as a local power, and at times feel very uneasy with the structure of local politics. To hardened local politicians we must appear very naive with our concerns, but we are attracting a lot of interest and support from the people of Ivybridge. So far we have raised many issues in the Council chamber. Each time we are confronted by the lack of real power to affect local community decisions taken by the District Council. However, half the battle is raising awareness of this within the local community, so perhaps things will change at the next election. Negatives aside, there is plenty that local councillors can do. From our limited experience we would strongly recommend that other Groups consider putting up candidates at the next local elections.* Many parishes are suffering from apathy and may not even hold elections due to a lack of candidates!

Ivybridge Green Group can be contacted via Stephen Soames, Beacon House, Beacon Rd., Ivybridge, S.Devon PL21 0AB

* At least 65 people have been elected to local councils on a Green ticket in Great Britain (about 43 men and 22 women). Of these, about 53 are Parish Councillors or their Welsh and Scottish Community Council equivalent.

INROADS

Inroads will be an occasional feature in Green Options. It will cover ideas for (and experiences of) effective ways of spreading the green message to "ordinary" people and new areas of society. How do we make green politics far more relevant to the everyday lives of most people? What are the attractive, constructive alternatives which can begin to engage genuinely popular support and involvement? Perhaps the answers are more difficult than simply opposing unpopular or un-green policies; they certainly relate to a very neglected aspect of green politics. Get in touch if you have information or ideas - minor snippets or major schemes - along these lines.

RECLAIMING POLITICS

What does "politics" actually mean? How has this become corrupted, a term of abuse? How do we reclaim a politics which many regard as hijacked by the central government machine/Parliamentary process (the grotesque centralisation, party "whips", Whitehall dictat, the adversarial structures etc.)? Future issues of Green Options will contain occasional contributions on the theme of "Reclaiming Politics". Please write if this might include something from you.

VIEWPOINT

What is the green movement's current state of health? Where is it going? Where should it be going? How can the movement develop real "bite"? What strategies should we adopt? What kinds of political and organisational structures should we seek to develop? Green Options will contain occasional contributions to a "Viewpoint" series: a political forum where various people can express their thoughts on some or all of these questions.

BACK ISSUES

Issue No. 1 - In stock
Issue No.2 - Sold out.
Issue No. 3 - In stock.

Send 50p (includes postage) per copy.

MAIN ARTICLES IN BACK ISSUES

(Check if an issue is still available from the list above this item)

Issue No.1: *Democracy in America* - a description first published in 1835. Plus *The Greening of Christianity*; *Not Back to the Sixties But Forward to the Revolution* (Green students); *Regionalism Today*, and *Setting the Scene for the Strategy Debate*.

Issue No.2: *The Greening of Australia* - a report from Down Under. Plus *Viewpoint* by Pam Woodin; *Cross-Party Links - The Green Alliance*; and *The Chance for a New Beginning*.

Issue No.3: *Going for Independence* - the inside story



of the Scottish Green Party's bid for autonomy. Plus *On Being a Green Councillor*; *Indra's Jewelled Net* - the Buddhist contribution to Greening, and *Reclaiming the Town Halls* - ideas for an effective political action programme.

ADVERTISING RATES

Future issues of Green Options may carry a maximum of one page (side) of display adverts. For camera-ready artwork, a full page (print area = 192 mm wide by 243 mm) will cost only £45, smaller sizes pro rata, with a series (two or more) discount of 15%.

If wanted, we can typeset text according to your design (incorporating any logos etc.) for an extra £5-10 depending on advert size. Inserts of leaflets etc. cost £25 per thousand (i.e. 2.5p each).

Classified adverts cost 8p per word, with a series discount of 15%. Send artwork to the back-page address (telephone Somerton 74130).

GREEN OPTIONS SALES

Help Green Options to grow. We are looking for people to promote or sell copies in their area. All offers of assistance with sales promotion (leaflets and sample copies available), as well as the addresses of possible sales outlets - bookshops, community centres, cafes/restaurants etc. - gratefully received.

Or take a minimum of five copies, and keep 20p per copy sold in your street/neighbourhood/group/meetings.

GREY WOLVES BACK IN THE U.S.A

Half a century ago the grey wolf was almost eradicated from the N.American West. Now, since 12 wolves wandered south from British Columbia, Canada, three years ago, Glacier Park in N.W. Montana has its own wolf pack.

Source: The International Herald Tribune, 23rd Sept. '87 via The Environmental Digest (Oct. '87)

Connections



In each issue the addresses of various kinds of groups and organisations will be listed. Where large numbers are involved, they will be spread over more than one issue. **This time around we focus on the arts!**

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| <p>Artists Network
21 Foulser Rd.
London SW17 8UE
01-767-1081</p> | <p>Society for Wildlife Art (SWAN)
Dumbles Cottage
Woodend Lane, Awre
Newnham, Gos.</p> | <p>SHAPE
9 Fitzroy Square
London W1P 6AE
01-388-9622/9744</p> | <p>Free Form Arts Trust
38 Dalston Lane
London E8 3AZ
01-249-3394</p> |
| <p>Concord Festivals WOMAD
Ford House, Hartland
Bideford, Devon</p> | <p>Connections
1 South View, Borrowby
Thirsk YO7 4QR
0845-537505</p> | <p>Grapevine (Magazine)
31 Castle Rd.
Colchester
Essex CO1 1UW</p> | <p>Earthworks
9 Cherwell St.
Oxford OX4 1BG</p> |
| <p>Circle Dance Network
45 Little Parks
Holts, Trowbridge
Wilts. BA14 6QR</p> | <p>Cahoots (Arts magazine)
163 Palatine Rd.
Manchester</p> | <p>Easterhouse Festival Society
PO Box 297, Glasgow
Scotland G33 4NG</p> | <p>The Leavers
Leavers Arts Base
Legard Works, Legard Rd.
Highbury, London N5 1DE
01-226-8026</p> |
| <p>New Age Global Arts Assoc.
Eurogallery,
Broadhurst Gdns.
London NW6
01-435-1012</p> | <p>Missing Link
Assembly Rooms
High St., Glastonbury
Somerset BA6 9DU
Tel. 0458-34677</p> | <p>National Poetry Secretariat
21 Earls Court Square
London SW5 9BY
01-370-6929</p> | <p>New Milestones Project
Common Ground
50 Kings Rd., Dorchester
Dorset DT1 1NJ</p> |
| <p>Iota Pictures
May Cottage, Calstock
Cornwall PL18 9QN
0822-833-692</p> | <p>Common Ground
London Ecology Centre
45 Shelton St.
London WC2H 9HJ
01-379-3109</p> | <p>Green Party Arts Working Group
3 Thorngarth Lane
Barrow-on-Humber
S.Humberside DN19 7AW</p> | <p>Council of Regional Arts Associations
Litton Lodge
13A Clifton Rd.
Winchester, Hants.</p> |

Please send in any up-dates or additions to this listing

NB. Copies of the listings from previous issues - Issue 1: Green Groups; Issue 2: Animal Rights; Issue 3: Trees - are available for 20p each plus an SAE

DESIGN FOR NEED

"Design for Need" is the title of the 1987/88 Leonardo da Vinci school lecture series, with venues in England, Scotland and Wales. Sponsored jointly by the Institute of Mechanical Engineers and Intermediate Technology, it aims to encourage future generations of engineers to take a responsible attitude toward the environment and the people for whom they will work.

Source: European Year of the Environment press release, Nov. 24th '87

RECYCLING

We encourage the recycling of any material in *Green Options*, though an acknowledgment of the source(s) would be appreciated.

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For one year's subscription (6 issues) please send £4.90* (Institutions or Groups £9) to **Green Options, Lockyer's Farm, Dundon, Somerton, Somerset TA11 6PE**. OR, please send a sample copy to a friend - I enclose 70p.

NAME ADDRESS

.....(d)

*For the more affluent or enthusiastic there is a special Supporters Subscription rate of £10 (Groups £15) to help the finances of Green Options.

Airmail rates: Europe (inc. Eire) £7; Aus/NZ £9; USA/Canada £9; Elsewhere - write in. **Surface mail rates** (write in for details) are cheaper, but take several weeks for delivery. Please send overseas monies in either local currency cash (pounds sterling equivalent) or International Money Orders (made out in Pounds Sterling), but not in local currency cheques since most of this would be taken by the bank in commission and administrative charges.