

Office of Edward Goldsmith

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Mr David Taylor
Luckyers Farm
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Dear David,

Thanks for sending me the "Correct chronology of the founding of the Green Party", as seen by the founders. I don't remember going to a meeting in 1972 at Dennis Nightingale-Smith's house. Maybe my memory is just failing me, but I have absolutely no recollection of this meeting whatsoever. As far as I can remember, I first learnt of People when Tony Whittaker called me in Cornwall three or four weeks before the first election of 1974. He told me that he and a few colleagues had started a new political party, largely inspired by "A Blueprint for Survival", and that I had to join this party and stand at the forthcoming election. Needless to say I could not say no. I found an agent, Dr Michael Ash, a most eccentric figure who lived on the north coast of Cornwall, and we set off together for Suffolk so that I could stand for the Eye constituency, much of which was once part of the Stowmarket division of Suffolk, for which my father was the Conservative M.P. from 1910 to 1919. I can't remember meeting the founders of the party before the election, though I may have done.

With regards to the manifesto, Lesley is quite right. I was supposed to write it when in Italy, where I had a house at the time - and never did. She had to do it herself very quickly, at the last minute. She managed to do this, and very well indeed at that. It was in fact a veritable tour de force. If I didn't produce the manifesto it was not because I was languishing in the sun on holiday. I tried very hard to write the manifesto, but found that I was singularly untalented as a manifesto writer. I should have never accepted the job.

Very sorry to have missed the reunion party at Dennis's. I planned to go, but at the last minute found I had to be in Paris earlier than I expected. If there is to be another reunion party I should certainly love to attend.

With best regards,


Edward Goldsmith

cc Lesley and Tony Whittaker