

# ECOLOGY PARTY

APRIL 15<sup>TH</sup> 1977.

PUBLISHED Bi-MONTHLY

# newsletter

## Liberal News

# LIBERALS SHOULD LINK UP WITH THE Ecology Party



LIBERAL NEWS says No to Doreen Elton

Doreen Elton, a conservationist Liberal from Sussex, has recently been flying an "alliance" kite, resulting in much publicity for the Ecology Party in Liberal News. Our reply made it pretty clear that there's no room for compromise on the zero-growth issue: if the Liberals really understood ecology we'd

### SORRY CYRIL!

As for the idea of "Zero-waste" this is really the most pernicious of all. I'm sure Cyril Smith never wastes food by leaving it on the side of his plate, but there are more ways than one to waste resources.

(FROM LIB NEWS)

doubtless all have joined them anyway.

It may be significant that Ms Elton lives near to John Luck, who in being elected last May kept a Liberal out. This is probably an example of a purely local campaign having, indirectly, national impact.

Confucius he say:  
IF 60% OF BELFAIN'S ENERGY COME FROM OIL, AND OIL GOING TO LUN OUT, WE VILLY LUCKY TO LIVE IN CHINA -  
AND BELFAIN VILLY LUCKY TO HAVE PARTY WHICH REMAINS FLOU-EM.



## EDITORIAL

First, let me thank all those of you who have written letters and articles. The response has been tremendously encouraging and is a great pick-me-up when I'm lying about exhausted after the effort of producing the newsletter. Success, of course, can bring its own problems, and the biggest one I have now is how to fit everything in. The letter should run to 10 pages as it did in Dec/Jan, but it grew to 12 in February, and has threatened to grow to 16 this time. I hope you will bear with me and keep sending in your views while I evolve an editorial policy that works without ending up with a publication that has to travel by parcel post.

### \*\*\*\*\*Down to Business---Local Elections\*\*\*\*\*

By the time this newsletter appears all candidates will have submitted their nomination papers and should, hopefully, be well on with leafleting. Heres a little job for them during that quiet part of the evening when they come home with foot-fulls of blisters and fingers covered with the bites of a thousand letterboxes; send the following info to the newsletter editor:

- 1 Your name, age and occupation
- 2 The county you're fighting and the name of the ward.
- 3 The number of electors
- 4 A sample leaflet
- 5 The number of leaflets you're using and the cost of them
- 6 Any other info you feel significant or have time to write down e.g. did you find it easy enough to get people to leaflet, where did you find them, etc.

If you get this info together in a ready stamped envelope you can add to it, on election night, the result and post the whole straightaway. Please don't leave it any later as post-election exhaustion or elation will set in and you'll probably never get round to it. This information is very important both for publicity and other purposes.

### A few thoughts about objectives

People are prone to get confused about abjectives in the headlong dive into an election campaign, so a few thoughts here might be in order. Starting from the beginning, we are in the Ecology Party because we believe the need for conservationist policies is crucial and urgent, and feel also that a purpose-built party is the most likely vehicle to bring about such policies in time. We are therefore involved in party-building. Fighting elections helps to build the party in at least 4 ways:

- 1) Simply by standing each candidate increases the

credibility of the Party (the National Front made front headline news in Leeds in April simply through having 21 candidates)

2) By actually getting elected, candidates add enormously to the Party's credibility, I've seen several cynics almost die of shock on hearing that the Party already has two councillors.

3) Every extra vote is a demonstration of support and hence also adds to our standing.

4) Through being active in elections we are likely to gain contact with more people who may leaflet in future, join the Party, or become candidates themselves. This is very important; we have at least 2 groups at the moment who are ready to go but for the lack of a candidate.

In addition there is the spin-off of getting our views into thousands of households, and probably some candidates have will have their own "angle" as well.

#### Financial Support

The N.E.C. decided that each candidate should be able to claim £20 towards election costs, (our funds won't run to much more). Send to the Treasurer if you wish to claim, please. (Save a stamp - treasure & editor are married).

Last, and most important of all, GOOD LUCK to all candidates in their campaigns. May the Sun and the Voters smile upon you all on polling day.

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#### ECO-CONFERENCE

Clive Lord has been sounding out contacts in other parties with a view to an exploratory conference of ecological groups. Favourable responses have been received from Liberals & Conservatives, so the conference is now virtually certain to take place. S.E.R.A. have yet to reply.

#### Tentative arrangements:

Venue - London, end of June/July. 1 day (Sat).

4 contingents - max 10 each.

Agenda: A.M. 1/2 hour statements of position from each.

P.M. proposals from each for future cooperation and liaison.

C. Lord

ALL WELCOME

NEXT N.E.C. MEETING

ALL WELCOME

SUNDAY 15th MAY 2.00 p.m. at the home of  
Jonathan Tyler, 121 Selly Park Road, Birmingham.

West Midlands

The West Midlands (which is Greater Birmingham for those who cannot tell East from west, but must not be called that in Bilston or Brierley Hill) does not yet have a formal group, but we are moving towards one in the wake of last autumn's excitement at Walsall. A meeting in February drew about fifteen members and sympathisers to plan our campaign for the County Council election on 5th May. We shall be contesting four seats, and we may learn some interesting lessons from the contrasting effects of their different characters: an area of modern housing estates in Walsall at the north end of the conurbation, a central ward in Wednesbury, one of the distinctive Black Country towns swallowed up in the rather amorphous Borough of Sandwell, an inner ward of Birmingham with all the problems of urban decay, and a mature middle-ring suburb with a large University population.

Two schools are possible bases for active groups when we become strong enough to start cell-like sub-division. At one, a comprehensive in Willenhall, the teachers who generous in their practical support of the Walsall campaign have formed an Ecology Society to tackle local environmental problems, including a neglected canal. At the other, a sixth-form college in well-heeled Solihull, Jonathan Tyler was given sympathetic hearing for a talk on Ecology in a weekly series by external speakers. A branch of the Schools Ece-Action group may shortly be formed.

The West Midlands is a difficult area for the Party. The dependence on the motor industry is deep, and an infinite faith in an expanding economy is reflected in the lavish attention the Birmingham Star gives to every minor 'success' of local firms in attracting new business or installing a new machine. Our favourite was the bland report of the advanced Cornish-pasty-making machinery which will replace fourteen girls with five. However, the materialist ethos is showing some cracks, especially with unemployment much nearer the national average than has been customary in this prosperous area and British Leyland so vulnerable (& there's even a chaplain at that palace of growthist super-industrialism, the National Exhibition Centre).

We shall be trying to put over the message that the adaptability which made Birmingham and the Black Country "the workshop of the world" should now be diverted to more ecologically-balanced ends than propping up the motor-industry and other resource-hungry activities. E.F. began in this conurbation: it would be most satisfying if it were also the scene of our first urban breakthrough.

Jonathan Tyler.

## Leeds Branch

Since the last newsletter a further candidate has come forward, Dorothy Darborough, who will be standing in Harnforth Ward. This brings the Branch strength up to six candidates. The Branch has discussed its local policies but all candidates are designing and drafting their own leaflets, which will be printed for two wards ( one of the candidates is a printer ) and duplicated in the remaining four ( another has a duplicator ). Even with discount printing the duplicating is still much cheaper.

In Burley Ward Keith Baxter has achieved almost blanket pre-campaign leafletting ( A4 size ) and is now well on with his preparation of the main election leaflet, as are all other candidates.

A meeting was held in March attended by Keith Rushworth with one Labour and one Liberal candidate. The candidates from the other parties were motivated to attend by the fact that they will both have Ecology opposition in May. The Labour man was distressed by Keith Baxter's activity, and feels that his chances of election are greatly reduced. Little came of the meeting other than a clearer understanding of each other's views. The Liberal thought conservation important, but not as important as Liberalism, and the Socialist thought that the no-growth issue was of enormous importance, second only to Communism. In asking us not to stand against him he offered, in return, absolutely nothing. His campaign leaflet, now to hand, barely mentions conservation issues.

A party on 5th March drew about 20 people and raised nearly £ 14. With hi-fi, pianist, fodder and song-sheets all to hand, a good time was had by all. Somehow we can't imagine the International Marxists or the N.F. enjoying themselves in quite the same way.

Meetings continue fortnightly with an average attendance of about 7 people, which indicates that its what happens outside meetings that really counts.

Our campaigns cover about 80,000 voters, so the ideal number of leaflets will be approaching 40,000. We may fall slightly short of this, but probably not by very much.

Some preparatory discussions were held on our best course of action if a General Election had been called before the May elections, but in spite of this sighs of relief were very much the order of the day when it became clear that a big election was 'off'.

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## London Branch

Meetings continue twice monthly, with attendance between half-a-dozen and a dozen. Alan Kirby has resigned, at least for the time being, from Branch activities for personal reasons, leaving a vacant candidate's place. We are considering running a 'campaign without a candidate' to drum up more support.

The problems of forming and expanding a group in a city as large as London are considerable. Every member who attends meetings travel long distances to do so, and the difficulties of having an impact on the London scene are as great as those faced by the N.E.C. in achieving an impact on Britain.

The Branch party was attended by about 20 people and raised £ 13.50. ( Ed. Does the similarity of these figures to the Leeds Branch party indicate that 'natural laws' govern small group dynamics? ). Account now stands at £ 23.50.

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### New Groups

#### Dorchester

David Taylor is making the first moves in this area to form a group, envisaging the full range, eventually, of election activity. We hope any members already in the area will join in. ( Address - Morley House, Winfrith Newburgh, Dorchester).

#### West Cornwall

Howard Hoptrough is making the first moves in West Cornwall, which is some distance from the concentration of Ecologists around Wadebridge, which is in East Cornwall. For anyone who hasn't heard of the effort on the Cornwall grapevine, the address is 5 Morrab Terrace, Penzance. Tel: 4880.

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#### Sussex Group

Sussex group announced their candidate some months ago and are very keen for any E.P. members in the area whom they may not have contacted, and who are willing to help with the election, to get in touch. Contact - Viv Bowser, Orchardown, Filching, Polegate, Sussex.

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Where are the others - there is activity in Devon, Surrey, Leominster, Hereford & Worcester and East Cornwall. The last of these, it is rumoured, has no less than four candidates in May.

Please don't hide your lights under bushels. Let us know what you are doing, how you are doing it, or anything else you want to say to the membership.

To all those trying to form new groups - no detail of your efforts, successes, failures, problems is too small for the Newsletter. Your problems are likely to be similar to everyone else's - we all learn by comparing notes.

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### BEYOND TOMORROW

John Luck has now received copies of the New Zealand Values Party manifesto 'Beyond Tomorrow' for circulation to members. It is certainly a very different document to our own manifesto and he recommends that all members read it, not only for that reason, but to familiarise yourselves with the efforts of other parties. He has 3 copies available and will loan on receipt of 30p to cover postage and the cost of purchase.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

In the Dec./Jan Newsletter you stated that Colin Fry had resigned from the Party rather suddenly. If this was for personal reasons it would have sufficed just to say so, but if it was because of some argument over party dogma or policy surely this should have been brought out.....

I would agree with Dean C. Wayland ( Feb. Newsletter ) that the party should try to attract more publicity. Do you circulate press releases giving the party's opinion on all newsworthy environmental events as they happen? Surely if you do this persistently enough the media will have to take some notice sooner or later.

Regarding a change of title for the party I don't think that any name will ever satisfy all supporters but it seems a bad idea to have a change of name just as the party is beginning to get established. As for a change of party colours, can you tell me what the current colours are as I haven't seen any mention of this in any literature that I have received so far.

Finally, one more question. What is the number of members at the present time?

Yours sincerely,

Paul Evans,  
42 Whitelaw Place,  
Cramlington,  
Northumberland, NE23 6HY.

Editor :- Colin Fry's resignation was for personal reasons. Sorry for the earlier omission. On the point about press releases, this is more difficult than it sounds. We are dependent, as ever, on volunteer workers, and a Press Officer needs certain special abilities as well as a lot of motivation and a great deal of time. Further, one needs to consider what one's response would be, as a newspaper editor, to a stream of press releases coming from somebody calling himself say 'The Fiddle Party'. No editor would pay much attention unless there were obvious signs of ' Fiddle Party ' activity. It brings us to a chicken and egg situation in which it is extremely difficult to gain publicity without a large number of candidates to give us a platform, and difficult to attract candidates when we have little publicity.

Party colours were originally red & blue, hence the use of these two colours on our 'Front line' membership leaflet. At least three branches have opted independently for green & brown.

Membership - see article.

Dear Sir,

I feel that Clive Lord's article on the supposed right/left split in the party misses the mark. The Ecology Party is a genuine departure in a new direction politically, and has rejected the concepts of economic growth that make up the cornerstones of all other parties in the political yo-yo. To borrow a phrase - the Ecology Party is 'politically non-Euclidean', and to cling to the dogma that all policies must fit somewhere on the archaic political scale would be to reduce the E.P. to yet another party of the centre and would condemn

it to certain failure. If you must adopt an expression to describe the direction of Ecologists why not - Forward ?

Yours sincerely,

John W. Iremonger, B.Sc.  
Liverpool University.

Dear Sir,

What's in a name ? Are the Labour Party the only ones to work ? The Liberals noted for free hand-outs ? The Conservatives conserve.....just what exactly ?

Never mind if some people don't know what Ecology means. And for goodness sake let's stop arguing about left and right within the E.P. Of course we're not all going to agree about everything or be unanimous about the importance of various policies. There just aren't enough of us to indulge in this sort of nonsense. Look what such arguments are doing to the Labour Party.

Yours sincerely,

Viv Bowser,  
Area Co-ordinator for Sussex.

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#### THE ISSUE OF EXPENSES

Extract of NEC Bulletin on Expenses, from JOHN LUCK.

' It was agreed ( by the last NEC meeting. Ed.) that principles need to be established to cover out-of-pocket expenses of the NEC members and that this should be decided at National Conference. The following resolution is suggested :-

' That out-of-pocket expenses for travel, postage & telephone necessarily incurred in carrying out the duties of the NEC shall be recoverable from party funds.'

This would then establish the right of the NEC to be refunded and 'moral' pressure could be exerted on the members, according to circumstances, not to claim the full amount due. Your views are invited.

It was further agreed by the NEC that this was the most practical method of dealing with expenses in the current year.'

#### Expenses - can we afford them ?, by KEITH RUSHWORTH.

I was most distressed recently to learn of the N.E.C. Chairman's claim for £ 10 from party funds for expenses incurred on party business. I have voiced concern on many occasions in the N.E.C. regarding the way we spend money. Other N.E.C. are generally loth to agree with me on what I see as classical boops in the spending of party resources : the donation of £ 90 to Colin Fry by the previous N.E.C. and the spending of £ 700 on the Walsall by-election - £ 60 of this again to Colin Fry, and £ 100 in expenses to others. (Plans in Leeds are based on £ 300 for fighting a constituency). We must recognize our past errors before we can correct them.

The decision to pay expenses to N.E.C. members indicates that party funds are still to be regarded as a near bottomless pit. Clearly certain members must be paid expenses by the party. The Membership Secretary, and perhaps also the Secretary, having to handle large volumes of postage should be able to claim. I claim for materials used in production of the News-



letter ( and am careful to give details of the costs).

But the problem of general expenses is rather different. I do not see why anyone who actually chooses to be active for the E.P. should make claims on its funds. If I was not trying to live on a student grant I probably would not claim for the Newsletter costs.

Our basic income from membership subs. is about £ 600 p.a. About £ 60 p.a. goes to Newsletter production, and another £ 80 goes on its postage. Of the remaining £ 460, over half, £ 270, goes to Good Earth. Since other postage could easily cost £ 100 there is precious little left. Full expenses for a really active N.E.C. could easily cost £ 400 p.a. we do receive some donations and profits from sale of manifestoes, which help, but we are in business to fight elections and it seems that precious little of our funds are going this way. Surely we should not be paying certain N.E.C. members out-of-pocket expenses when we are not able to reimburse candidates even for the basic cost of their campaign leaflets.

I write this article with enormous regret, but I am faced with accepting a democratic decision of the N.E.C. or fighting what I feel very strongly to be an extravagant attitude towards funds.

I hope members will think about this carefully and send in their views. This is a problem which must be finally resolved.

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#### POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE WHERE ARE YOU ?

Some months ago Eric Jones undertook to organise the initial meeting of the P.R.C. Almost nothing has surfaced since then, so we are no nearer to producing a better manifesto - in fact we are no nearer to reaching consensus on what we mean by better, which is necessarily the first stage.

This highlights our manpower problems. The Party's active membership is mostly tied up with elections at this time of the year, and the number of people left for further jobs is minimal. Perhaps more volunteers after the election will put the Committee on its feet.

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#### ADDRESSES OF N.E.C. MEMBERS

Chairman: Jonathan Tyler  
121 Selly Park Rd, Birmingham 29 Tel: 021-472-1088

Secretary: Clive Lord  
44 Upper Batley Low Lane, Batley, W. Yorks. Tel: Batley 472767

Newsletter Editor: Keith Rushworth 8 The Mount, Leeds 17  
Treasurer: Christine Rushworth Tel: Leeds 672198.

Membership Secretary: Councillor John Davenport  
2 The Old Vicarage, 26 Main Rd, Kempsey, Worcs. 0905-820489

Policy Review: Eric Jones  
18 Buttermere Close, Anston, Sheffield.

Peter Rout  
26 Wharfedale St, Wednesbury, West Midlands. 021-556-6977

Councillor John Luck  
20 Military Rd, Rye, East Sussex. Tel: Rye 3404.

Edward Goldsmith, 73 Molesworth St, Wadebridge, Cornwall.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE  
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Membership is a matter of importance in the Party second only to our election position, and yet it has in the past received curiously little specific attention. The time has come to remedy this.

You may have noticed that the Ecology Party, like every other Party in Britain, hasn't so far boasted about its membership; this is because only a tiny proportion of people in this country are active in politics and no Party has anything to boast about. Our own membership has just passed the 200 mark, going in the right direction.

The current increase in members is partly due to publicity in the Ecologist, but the point of this article is that our greatest means of gaining new members is probably existing members. This means YOU. The idea of going out onto the streets and pulling in dozens of recruits wont appeal to many, But that's not what we're asking. whoever you are, there's little doubt that 90% to 100% of the people you know or meet every are not members, & are therefore potential new members. If each existing member could get just one recruit in the next 4 months, our membership would double. why only 4 months? Well, mainly because for most people this will be a possibility & we don't want to put anybody off by asking for miracles.

For many, of course, even this could be quite difficult. I wonder how many are "secret members", reading this newsletter in dark corners for fear that their local Arch-Growthmaniac will throw taunts of "Doom-monger" at them? I'm sure there are some, but I'm equally sure that given 4 months and a moderate effort they could talk one other person into joining.

Good Earth and membership leaflets are useful to have about, so if you'd like extra copies, write to Peter Rout so that he can pack them up with your next newsletter.

And let's see where our membership figure stands in August.

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NOTES FROM THE N.E.C. MEETING ON 13.3.77

It is with regret that we announce the resignation of Alan Kirby from the N.E.C. for personal reasons. The hard work which he put in the walsall election would have been invaluable on the N.E.C.

1975/76 Accounts: Peter Sizer (Hon. Auditor) is having difficulty in finalising them, but he is fairly certain now that it is merely a question of vague accounting methods. Do members insist on this being pursued, as the N.E.C. are strictly obliged to do following the 1976 conference or can we now turn our attention to the future.

1976 Manifesto amendments are now being duplicated by Peter Rout.

1977 Conference Venue will be University House, Birmingham and the date is 24/25 September.

Leeds & London, being the most active branches, are to be invited to stage regional conferences, open to all members who can get there, preferably with some policy area as a focus.

A suggestion that the N.E.C. venue and / or Chairmanship should rotate, as last year, was not generally favoured.

Party Luplicator ? No decision could be made on this due to two tentative possibilities which cannot at the moment be publicised.

Good Earth E.P. support has been continued on the same terms as before for the next 2 issues, pending the outcome of the Good Earth/Conservation News merger negotiations.

Capititation Fee A suggestion by Leeds branch that the £4 membership subscription should be replaced by a £2 capititation fee for functioning branches was agreed in principle but it was agreed that any such change must be made at AGM.

All members within striking distance of Sheffield & London are reminded that the E.P. should be strongly represented at the Consoc. and Turning Point Conferences on 23/24 April.

C. Lord Secretary

#### THE DEFENCE DEBATE CONTINUES

I don't know the answers to this problem but there are some factors which previous contributors appear to ignore, especially in respect of guerilla-warfare:

1) Because of the accuracy of modern weapons, both sides in a conflict, if equally matched, would probably have fought to a standstill in a matter of days eg Six Days war. what then ?

2) Can we really seriously consider guerilla warfare in an urban context ? Where would a guerilla force hide ? (The Viet Cong had jungle & swamp to camouflagé them from the air). where would it obtain food & supplies ?

It is worth remembering that though the Vietcong wasn't small, it was assisted by a regular army and backed by powerful allies, their conflict lasted 30 years.

3) The idea of training all-comers to kill seems horrifying - how can one ensure that pathologically aggressive people are prevented from handling weapons ? (There are a good many such people, unfortunately)..

4) Finally, we must consider why we are likely to be attacked - for political reasons, by some capitalist imperialist aggressor, for our resources eg our large supplies of coal ?

I don't think the Russians would be very impressed by our manifesto. They can certainly afford a very large army of occupation and are likely to have the resources to do so in the future.

We have no chance alone, hence the need for allies - but this is likely to increase the provocation.

Further thoughts on the problem welcomed by the P.R.C.

Eric Jones.

With regard to the defence debate the kernel of the matter is surely the Party's standpoint on the nuclear 'deterrent' and surely in all conscience that is something which we cannot support under any circumstances. Nuclear weapons are not in the true sense a deterrent at all & in fact the whole world is living on a nuclear razor's -edge & is less secure from the horrors of war than ever before, not more secure.

I do not believe there is such a thing as a 'nuclear balance of terror' as you put it in the Dec/Jan newsletter. If we were a nuclear deterrent & became a more politically neutral nation we would not be seen as a threat to Russia. And if Russia were to invade us because we had no nuclear retaliatory force then at least we would have survived as a nation and could eventually defeat the invaders through Fabian tactics such as strike action, civil disobedience or guerilla action. After all, they couldn't shoot 60 million of us, but a few nuclear missiles could wipe us off the map.

Paul Evans, Cramlington.

#### Inflation hits Ecology Party Pens

Party pens are now £1.30 for 10, post free. Still good value. Available from Keith Rushworth.

Anti-Nuke Stickers as seen in the last issue of Good Earth available from Val Stevens, 77 School Road, Birmingham 28.

\*\*\*\*\* STOP PRESS\*\*\*\*\*

London Group have found a candidate for the G.L.C. Council elections. He is Jonathan Porritt of 57 Hamilton Terrace, London N.w.8. Tel: 286-9212. Help would be appreciated.