

the Ecology Party

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NEWSLETTER

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FAREWELL EDITORIAL

First, Apologies. Peter Rout asks me to present his for not despatching the April newsletter promptly due to personal problems (& of course the elections). Good Earth present theirs for being slow off the mark with this issue, and I present mine for being even slower, due to University exams in June. British Rail should also present theirs for losing Good Earth between Leeds & Birmingham for a week, but probably wont bother.

Secondly, a note on Editorial Policy. I've realised that an editor of anything other than a desperately under-subscribed school mag must be quite ruthless about rejecting articles (a point worth remembering when we're chasing press publicity). The guidelines I have followed are that 'operational' articles must have first priority (I.E. articles which enable the party to operate - 'when is conference ?etc). Information articles second (i.e. did we win at the elections) and third, discussion on policies & strategy. It is in this area that the editorial axe has fallen. I have aimed to keep some sort of order, continuity and relevance in this section & to air every point of view. I hope that those who have seen articles or chunks of articles fail to appear will understand.

Thirdly, my departure from the Editorship and the NEC. I have long had reservations about the Committee (I have reservations about most committees), even more so last year than this. The method by which this year's Committee was chosen was particularly uninspiring. About twenty people who could afford the time and money to attend conference chose, mainly from among themselves, this years NEC. Most people hardly knew the people they were voting for. Admittedly, it was not possible at the time to initiate the Council of Delegate from local groups which was discussed at the '76 conference since there were effectively no local groups. But it was a poor start none the less.

The fact is that the NEC is attempting an extremely difficult or impossible task: members trying to set up a national political party in their spare time. The difficulties of managing ICI havv nothing on this - yet the Directors of that body are very carefully selected. This doesn't mean that we should give up, but I have always felt that there must be a continuing, strong underlying commitment to attract & keep people who can get results and to drop those who don't. A process that, ultimately, should produce a committee of dynamic, committed Ecologists, able to make decisions & prepared to back the party with their last spare penny & their last minute of spare time. Anything less is selling the next generation down the line.

Instead, the idea tends to be accepted that the only necessity is to fill 9 seats on the NEC with 9 bottoms. whether the bottoms

concerned are fully committed to the party, prepared to work hard for it, and so on, seems to be of relatively little importance. Further the committee has little hindsight or foresight. To me it seems obvious that we must plan ahead, (at this stage we should be considering May '78 elections) but first need to look back to learn from our mistakes & experiences. When I suggest this I am accused of raking over the past.

These basic difference & others springing from them have caused a great deal of friction on the NEC, largely between myself, and Jonathan Tyler and Clive Lord. I tried sending notes, and later my wife to NEC meetings so that my views might be heard without my inflaming presence. It seemed to make little difference, & I was even told that my absence made even more difficulties.

Readers, of course, will already know my views on the expenses issue. The NEC decision in this stands. Further, the most recent NEC meeting has, I hear, discussed devolution within the Party without reaching a conclusion. Devolution - giving recognition & formal power to branches - seems to me to be, philosophically, strategically and practically correct. That the NEC could not agree to it seems to me to be a clear indication that certain people on that committee are determined to hang onto power centrally. This last point filled me with real doubts as to whether I should be working with the NEC at all.

Suffering great loss of faith & a temporary financial crisis I made a claim for expenses for myself, deciding to donate an equal amount (£47) to the Leeds Branch subsequently (where I know every penny will be spent effectively). My wife & I were discussing what else we should do when we heard that the claim had been queried. Had being on the NEC really cost me £47? Could I give a more detailed account? Being in the Party for 16 months has cost me, I guess, over £400, and since I never expected to claim such money I kept no account of it. This added insult to disillusion & I decided to get off the national bus, to give all my effort to the Leeds Branch, where they are better rewarded.

Although I have a great deal more to say I am already disobeying my own views on the need for newsletter articles to be brief. I will add only my deepest felt thanks to those, including some of the NEC, who have given me help and encouragement over recent months, and offer my own moral support to those currently ~~xx~~ embarked on producing a new branch out of almost nothing. Success in this is worth a hundred times every penny and every minute you'll ever spend on it.

NOW READ ON FOR THE GOOD NEWS

*****ELECTION REPORT*****

Seventeen candidates stood in the local elections - 6 in West Yorkshire, 5 in Cornwall, 4 in West Midlands and one each in London and Sussex. In total over five thousand people turned out to vote for us.

In CORNWALL Jeremy Faull gained a seat on the County Council when his only opponent dropped out, being 'unable to fault any of the Party's policies'. Jeremy is the Party's third local councillor.

The average percentage vote attracted by Cornwall candidates was a massive 16% in fights against independents rather than big party opposition. All candidates used a modified version of a standard printed Cornwall leaflet.

In West Midlands Jonathan Tyler collected 572 votes, compared to 620 for the Liberal, who had received over 1200 the previous year. Jonathan used an original printed leaflet rich in cartoon illustrations & was also active in 'doorstepping' & public meetings. The other 3 West Midland candidates took 3.2% to 0.6% of the vote using duplicated leaflets & a minimum of additional campaigning, in areas which could be regarded as "difficult".

In Leeds David Corry took 503 votes - nearly 7% of the poll - against Labour & Tory candidates in a suburban ward, using a duplicated leaflet & no additional campaigning. Steve Waldenberg, on a joint Liberal/Ecology ticket gained a similar percentage, despite a much heavier than usual turnout for the Lab. & Con. candidates. Steve used a printed leaflet. Other Yorks. candidates took on average about 3% of the poll, which brought them well ahead of better known communist & National Front candidates.

Jonathan Forritt, running our first ever campaign in London came in fifth out of seven with 298 votes, an excellent result. Also, Beryl Bowser in Sussex took nearly 20% in a straight fight with a Conservative - another excellent result.

Results in Brief

<u>Birmingham Sparkhill</u> Peter Sizer	B'gham Selly Oak Jonathan Tyler	walsall - Willenhall Sth & Bentley John Duff	Sandwell west Brom No. 5 Peter Rout
Lab 2813	Con 4910	Con 3279	Con 4681
Con 2558	Lab 2353	Lab 2297	Lab 2212
Ind 427	Lib 620	Ecol 182	NF 542
Comm 310	Ecol 572		Ecol 46
Ecol 145			
<u>Leeds - Garforth</u> David Corry	Moortown S. Waldenberg	Headingley Keith Rushworth	
Con 5426	Con 3400	Con 2771	
Lab 2431	Lab 1495	Lab 1245	
Ecol 503	EP/Lib 373	Lib 714	
	NF 89	Ecol 188	
		Comm 162	
		NF 78	
<u>Horsforth</u> Dorothy Darnborough	Burley Keith Baxter	Bradford No. 2 Steve Garret	
Lib 3580	Lab 1559	Lab 3725	
Con 3304	Con 1484	Con 3153	
Lab 775	Lib 178	Ind 2400	
Ecol 244	Ecol 91	NF 545	
NF 142	NF 63	Ecol 206	
	Comm 45		

London, Sussex, Cornwall - full details not supplied.

National publicity was rewarding. The Times, Guardian & Telegraph all covered us, as did 'Weekend World' on Radio 4. 17 candidates

spread all over the country has clearly given us a degree of credibility & newsworthiness in the eyes of the press. So long as we keep on increasing the number of candidates over all we are on the way to becoming a household word.

A close study of the results indicates that using duplicated rather than printed leaflets makes no measurable difference to the vote. Other factors such as the area, the opposition, proportion of houses leafleted, context of leaflet, other campaigning activity, all have a clear influence. The Walsall result is a particularly good example of what can be achieved with a remarkably cheap campaign, using a leaflet which looked exactly like a page of this newsletter, similarly the Leeds duplicated leaflets which had more of a 'poor man's printing' appearance (sample enclosed).

In general, we have reason to be well pleased with the results. Our aim should perhaps be to increase our number of campaigns threefold again - from 6 in '76, to 17 in '77, to 50 in '78 ? 1978 could be "the year that people started talking about Zero Growth in Britain". (This means a lot of work in Metropolitan Districts as there will be few elections outside the Metropolitans next May - and that's only 10 months away*).

* * * * *

ACCOUNTS 1976 - 1977

Given below are approx. figures for 1976-1977. Detailed accounts will be available at conference.

Opening balance Sept '76	£690
walsall Campaign	£420
Good Earth & Newsletter	£280
Local Elections	£180
Postage (not inc. newsletter)	£110
Expenses	£100
Addressograph	£ 60
Contribution to full page Guardian Ad.	£ 50
Hall for Eco-conference	£ 15
G.P.O. - Business reply service	£ 15
Sundries	£ 10
	<u>£1240</u>

Current balance approx. £270.

These figures are included to give a general picture of our funds over the last twelve months, & to point to budgeting for next year.

Points to note are:

- 1) The figure for walsall does not include money spent on the campaign prior to my taking over as treasurer or personal expenses.
- 2) The expenses figure includes a £47 claim still under consideration.
- 3) By September membership subscriptions could add £200 to the current balance.

Annual income therefore appears to be about £1000.

Christine Rushworth.

INSIDE ELECTIONS a look at two campaigns from the candidates.

Peter Sizer on Sparkhill (Birmingham)

The idea was that we should concentrate our efforts in the Birmingham conurbation - so I pedalled the 20-odd miles there & back each time for canvassing, leafleting, etc. The help we hoped for from Birmingham conservationists didn't materialise, and I found I was working single-handed more or less. Betty Garcia helped on two afternoons, and Brenda Tyler was able to spare one afternoon from Jonathan's campaign. My 13-year old daughter (who I'm sure will graduate naturally from the Wildlife Youth Service & the YHA to the Ecology Party) helped with getting my nomination paper signed & joined me for leafleting one Sunday afternoon. My only contact in the ward to start with was the man who has mended my byke several times when I have broken down on my way through.

Campaigning by byke from 20 miles away is far from easy, though - you can't slip out for half an hour's canvassing between thunderstorms, as I would have done if I had stood in Leamington Spa. One of my bykes was stolen (fortunately the secondhand one, & not my best) while I was leafleting in one of the slummier areas, & on another occasion an alsatian dog grabbed a finger as I was pushing a leaflet through the letterbox. (Perhaps in these days of packaged pet foods a finger of postman or electioneer is the only square meal the poor brute gets).

But 145 votes in an inner city area where I was unknown? Not bad. A duplicated leaflet, a bit of canvassing & a few Good Earths constituted the campaign. I was billed by a sympathetic Sunday newspaper reporter as the cycling candidate who would be canvassing from a poster be-decked bike. I hadn't reckoned with the weather, & ended up with a bike festooned with soggy papier mache.

Worth it all, though.

V Bowser on Cuckmere, East Sussex

I have noticed some scepticism amongst party members about the NEC's suggestion that more members of our party should contest local elections. We accepted their idea & had a go.

My wife Beryl stood for the County Council elections - the Cuckmere Division of East Sussex, & I acted as her Election agent. There were 4000 odd electors & the only help we had was two half days from sympathisers who were not party members. It took us just over a week to distribute about 2000 leaflets, I mean election addresses. We had no time for anything else in the way of canvassing, but we felt the addresses were simple & could be understood by anyone with a reading age of 11. We talked to people when the opportunity offered. The Poll was 45%, of which Beryl obtained just under 20% of the votes against the experienced Official Conservative candidate. No third party contested it.

So what did we get out of it? Well for ourselves we got the satisfaction of doing a hard job well & four very sore feet. And the Party?

Well first, an unknown party with a good but inexperienced candidate collected the astonishing total of 382 votes. That must be good. MY Tory friends have suggested that this was a protest vote whatever that is supposed to mean. If they mean we got the Labour vote I doubt it. I don't think many of them voted. If they mean that we got the Floaters, well isn't that what party politics is about ?

It shows me that a minority is beginning to think that there is something seriously wrong with the existing major parties.

Apart from this, we have had other bonuses. A woman in our village called to say that this was the first time she had ever felt like voting for anybody & could she help? 2 people have written or phoned asking to know more about the E.P. & the local F.O.E. group have written asking to know more. We got good local coverage in the local press, both Eastbourne Herald, & through a letter of mine, the Brighton Evening Argus. All this in the Cuckmere valley, a traditional Tory stronghold.

So, the answer to the question is YES, it's well worthwhile. Think about it. What have you to lose ? You probably won't get in, but you'll get the message across to a lot of people in a way that wouldn't happen otherwise. And that's what it is all about.

Finally, what a splendid lot of people we have leading us. John Luck gave us lots of help & encouragement, & both he and his wife drove nearly a 100 mile round trip just to support us at the count. Jonathan Tyler rang us up to ask how we were getting on & then to find how we had done. Would "Jim" or "Maggy" have done that ?

So come on all you potential councillors. You will have to wait two years, barring casual vacancies for the next District elections, & three for the Counties, but don't drag your feet. How about the Parish Council in the meantime ? If they don't have parties, (& the smaller ones don't) you can still put ecological ideas forward.

Don't hesitate. It's fun.

(Ed: In Metropolitan Districts there are District elections next May).

BACK TO BASICS - Manifesto Revision:

Our Manifesto remains a prime subject of discussion both in local groups, the NEC and the Newsletter. All this discussion, however, tends to become unproductive because it is MUCH TOO DETAILED. We must begin by hammering out the basic premises on which all our policies, from Defence to farming, are based. For example, there is no point in discussing details of possible defence policies until we have reached consensus on basic statements such as "Ecologists are necessarily pacifists" or "Ecology is irrelevant to defence policy making". Both of these diametrically opposed views are currently held within the party.

Further, we must decide whether we wish our manifesto to reflect the ideas of a few dozen currently active members, or thousands of potential members who must join of the Party is to be successful. It seems obvious after a moments reflection that our policies must, as far as possible, be widely acceptable both to the electoate & to future candidats, otherwise we simply wont have any future candid-ates. Yet, there are some members who feel policies stamped into the manifesto at this stage, however obscure or controversial, will get a free ride into national prominence as the party grows. In reality such policies will simply stop the party from growing.

May I thensuggest the following as being the Principles which between them should mould all our policies:

- 1) Ecology - by which I do mean 'ecology', which has a much more precise meaning than 'conservation' or 'enviromentalism'.
- 2) Democracy - i.e. we should have policies as far as possible which the majority of people support or find acceptable & which do not make inroads into existing freedoms. This implies dropping all controversial issues from our manifesto which are not strictly necessary to produce a sustainable society. The massive changes we currently advocate on land ownership & defence are examples of such controversial issues.

Agreeing on Ecology & Democracy will still leave us plenty of room for discussion & arguement, but we will at least know which way we're facing, and will have two specific tests to apply to each policy - "Is it Ecological,?" and "Is it democratic/popular?". (Many of our policies, of course, will not be both Ecological & Democratic, but a compromise between the demands of each principle). This would be a mojer improvement on our present situation in which people are inclined to suggest policies which have their roots in socialism, vegetarianism, pacifism, paternalism, internationalism, and many others.

Before we launch into preparing another 60 page manifesto, let's know what it's to be based on.

K.M. Rushworh.

N.E.C. NOTES 13.5.77

The NEC is back at full strength (9), Steve Lambert (London) having been co-opted.

1975/76 Accounts: following the note about this in the April newsletter, it is proposed not to pursue this any further.

Expenses : Crim Rushworth reported 2 letters, both supporting the call in the last newsletter for NEC members not to claim expenses at all. Eric Jones pointed out that expenses claimed

were a small fraction of the total incurred, & Jonathan Tyler felt that NEC membership ought not to depend on ability to subsidise the party.

The same newsletter item had made wider allegations which the NEC felt it necessary to answer. The £90 'donated' to Colin Fry was allocated in good faith for publicity purposes, but was not accounted for to the satisfaction of the NEC when Colin abruptly left the party. Edward Goldsmith specifically defended the Walsall Noth expenditure. The NEC was not infallible however: it claimed only to be willing to learn from any mistakes.

Membership : stricter arrangements will be applied to lapsed members in future: everyone will receive an anniversary renewal reminder, but if this is not acted upon, one further newsletter will be sent.

Lists of recent enquirers will now be published, so that members & groups can chase up those in their own areas.

Party Organisation: Jonathan Tyler will produce a working paper on a federal structure, for debate at the conference (see article).

Good Earth: The EF/Good Earth agreement now lapses, after this issue. Discussions are in progress on the possibility of Good Earth forming the core of a decentralised newspaper, with local groups providing their own front & back pages. In the meantime EF will support Good Earth with £20 per issue.

Manifesto Replacememnt: A three-tier arrangement has been agreed:

1. The present manifesto, as updated. This will however cease to be the front line of publicity. It will remain available for reference, probably in duplicated form.
2. A new 'Manifesto for a Sustainable Society'. This will be in the style of the Value Party 'Beyond Tomorrow', containing key passages from the manifesto, with linking material & explanations. Peter Sizer has undertaken to draft this, & after submission to the NEC it will be debated at Conference, but in general terms, not line by line.
3. A Short Policy Statement. This is now being vetted by the NEC.

windscale Enquiry: The EF clearly does not have the resources to participate, but Teddy Goldsmith is an individually registered objector, & will see we are associated as publicly as possible with the opposition to nuclear waste processing. It is hoped to debate strategy & tactics at Conference, including whether we ought to get involved directly in public enquiries etc. when we are in a position to do so.

Clive Lord.

TO DEVOLVE OR NOT TO DEVOLVE ?

The Party is presently constituted as a national party, with central administration of membership, dependent local groups and

a National Executive Committee elected (perhaps not very representatively) at the annual Conference. Yet its manifesto talks of 'self-governing communities' & of diminishing 'the power of Parliament..... by a process of gradual devolution'. A form of federalism, with limited powers (& representation) passing up, not down is clearly envisaged. Sooner or later the inconsistency must be resolved - is the time to do it now ?

The obvious solution is to reconstruct the national Party as a federation of local Ecology Parties. The advantages would be:

1) that County or District Parties would naturally reflect local concerns & loyalties, and constitute the unit we shall ultimately wish to emphasise;

2) that people are more likely to join a local group than become members (as distinct from sympathisers) of an amorphous national organisation (whose current membership fee is on the high side);

3) that the NEC could be composed of representatives (not necessarily delegates) elected by local constituencies.

The disadvantages are:

1) that there would have to be some means of constraining local independence, since severely inconsistent policies would quickly be demolished by the media & dismissed by the electorate;

2) that parallel provision would be necessary for members in areas not yet capable of sustaining a local Party;

3) that the normal process of fluctuating levels of activity could be more damaging without the cushion of national momentum.

The implications are:

1) that coordinating a federation may advance the need for a paid national secretary;

2) that regional parties could well match emerging structures of European government & of the ecology movement on the Continent;

3) that some form of minimum declaration to which a party member is expected to subscribe will probably be required (it may be in any case).

Pressure towards this type of organisation is already evident in

a) the existence of the (north) Cornwall Ecology Party, with a strong logic for independence but some consequential philosophical & administrative problems;

b) several strong branches with semi-autonomous membership and a local identity, not least in media eyes;

c) the possibility that Good Earth could develop as a regional cum-national newspaper for the ecology movement in general by inserting centrally-edited pages into local pages.

The issue is not clear cut, and the federal concept may be premature. What do members think ??????????

Please write to the Newsletter or to an NEC member AND come and debate the problem at the ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

Jonathan Tyler.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 1977

Conference is the annual opportunity for members of the Party to come together to review progress, exchange ideas and prepare for future campaigns. 1976/77 has been a year of significant electoral advance, increasing interest in our cause & consolidation of our internal arrangements. Will you help cap it by attending and contributing to what we hope will be an enjoyable, if hardworking, weekend?

Here are the details and a booking form is enclosed.

DATE: Sat/Sun 24/25 September.

PLACE: University House, BIRMINGHAM.

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE:

Saturday	10.30 - 11.15	reception and coffee
	11.15 - 12.30	formal business
	13.00 - 14.00	buffet lunch
	14.15 - 15.45	guest speaker: John Tyme
	16.05 - 17.30	discussion of Manifesto (see article).
	18.10 - 19.15	dinner
	19.30 - 20.45	review of Party policy (see article).
	20.45 - 22.30	informal gathering (bar available).
Sunday	08.00 - 09.00	breakfast
	09.15 - 10.45	review of Party structure (see article)
	11.05 - 12.30	guest speaker from French Ecology movement - Brice Lalonde.
	13.00 - 14.00	buffet lunch
	14.15 - 15.30	review of Party's political strategy
	15.50 - 17.00	NEC election, resolutions, misc. business.

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS: for members travelling by train the following are typical Saturday departure - Sunday arrival-home times:

Exeter	07.26 - 21.30	Leeds	07.55 - 21.06
Swansea	07.43 - 21.48	Cambridge	07.12 - 22.32
Lancaster	07.41 - 20.26	London	09.10 - 19.25
Manchester	08.30 - 19.46	Reading	08.29 - 19.43

(Note: rooms can be booked for the Friday night at University House).

FEES: (including Conference documents).

£11.00 per person for full board (vegetarian alternatives available)

£ 7.00 per person for bed and breakfast only

£ 2.50 per person for attendance at business sessions only.

Add £4 if bed and breakfast are required on Friday night.

Twin-bedded rooms are available but at the standard fee/person.

TRAVEL COSTS: members attending are asked to consider some degree of equalisation of travel costs so that those furthest from

Birmingham are not deterred by cost from coming. Please indicate your view on the booking form.

BOOKING ARRANGEMENTS: please book as early as possible, using the form.

Extra fee of £1.00 for bookings received after 10 September. Refunds of 90% of the fee will be given for cancellations received up to 19th September, and of 75% thereafter.

PARTY POLICY. THE MANIFESTO AND THE CONFERENCE

The existing policy of the Party is enshrined in the 60-page 'Manifesto for a Sustainable Society'. This document was drafted by a team led by Peter Allen & adopted after a marathon discussion of 362 amendments at the Conference in June 1975. Further amendments made at the 1976 Conference have been printed as an appendix.

Not surprisingly, the Manifesto suffers from inconsistent styles and uneven treatment of topics, and it reads turgidly in places. It is essential for the Party to have a basic record of agreed policy, & it is preferable that it should be well-written & coherent. Further piecemeal amendment could not achieve that objective.

Two other problems have arisen. Recent demand for copies makes a reprint necessary. The expense of typing & plate/stencil-making could be such as to require a large order & hence to postpone the opportunity for substantial rewriting. Moreover, at the last two Conferences there has been some unease about the propriety of amendments from individual members having equal status with those from groups. The embryonic position of all but one or two groups would make the position no better this year.

The NEC has discussed the matter. We also took into account the equally urgent need to revise the short introductory leaflet, and the fact that the Policy Review Committee has not so far been able to review Policy because of a prior commitment to prepare the Short Manifesto requested at the 1976 Conference.

This situation is part of the general problem the Party faces of electoral success & public interest in us out-stripping our resources, and particularly our administrative & policy-making machinery. To help us through a difficult period the NEC therefore proposes the following measures & hopes that they will be accepted with understanding by members.

- 1) Peter Sizer, our auditor, now a University lecturer but formerly a journalist, has been commissioned to rewrite the 1975 Manifesto (as amended in 1976) as a coherent document in a single attractive style but without changing the substance of any policy,
- 2) Conference this year will not work systematically through a collection of amendments to the existing Manifesto.
- 3) The draft of the Sizer Manifesto will be circulated to groups, & to participants, before the Conference, where it will be discussed as a whole. Further suggestions for improved wording

will be taken, together with limited substantive amendments for which there is obvious general agreement.

4) It is hoped that the spirit of this discussion will be concern for the overall impression the document makes rather than for the details of policy with which each of us may disagree. At the end of the session the vote will be to adopt, or reject the draft as the Party's new Manifesto.

5) The text if adopted, will be printed & bound in loose-leaf form so that subsequent amendment will be easier than in the past. Should there be a strong feeling that substantive revision of particular areas is urgent, the Conference may wish to consider convening a special Policy Conference early in 1978. Otherwise, subjects could be remitted to the Policy Review Committee & to groups for a round of amendments at the 1978 Conference.

Any member who wishes to question these arrangements, or who feels that revision of some particular policy is urgently required, is asked to contact me as soon as possible. It will be appreciated that any significant departure from the proposed arrangements will reduce, as in previous years, the time which Conference has available for discussion of the Party's structure, general policy and strategy.

Jonathan Tyler, Chairman.

KNOW YOUR ENEMY * * * *

I recently met a nuclear supporter at Radio Leeds, the first time I've met such an animal face to face. I asked him privately if he had any doubts. He said he sometimes felt that what he was advocating could turn out to be a "horrendous disaster". Ten minutes earlier he'd been declaring over the air that the nuclear industry was the safest in Britain. Fig.

Keith Rushworth

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+ + + + NEWS FROM LOCAL GROUPS + + + +

BATH & BRISTOL

Hugh Dowson, who has addresses in both Bath & Bristol, wants to contact more EP members in the areato start a group. Hugh describes himself as a "recent & decidedly inexperienced member of EP" (Ed: that's where we all come in), Addresses :

Hampton Lodge, Westbury Park, Bristol 6. Or
1, Oakley, Claverton Down, Bath BA2 6DS.

DEVON

have produced posters on recycled paper, 18ins by 25ins with "Ecology Party" & the logo at the top in Brown & Green and a large space for your own slogan or message. Available from Peter Frings, 3 Mowbray Ave. Exeter, Devon, EX4 4HB. 85p for 20 or £1.70 for 40, post free.

A group statement on expenses points out that these come mainly from funds donated by local members who themselves have no way (or the desire) to claim. The group, however, feels that it should remain possible for student or unemployed NEC members to claim if in dire financial straits & subject to very strict vetting. A further statement adds "further criminal use of funds (e.g. the donation to Colin Fry) will result in local groups retaining more of their funds for local activity, a situation everyone would want to avoid".

Other recent activities include preparation of an introductory leaflet about the EP ideas & investigation of production of slogan badges. Any good ideas for short, snappy slogans ?? The group has also a travelling bookstall which it takes to Exeter University weekly & to local fairs and Shows.

DORSET

David Taylor remain active in the Dorchester area and has succeeded in getting a group nucleus going. He reports a tussle with Paul Hannam, Vice-Chairman of the Young Libs at the Wessex Y.L.'s AGM, but held his own. David is also engaging in some street corner loud-speaking.

INVERNESS-SHIRE

Laurence Thompson is turning his thoughts towards producing a local manifesto for campaigns in the area. E.P. to take on the S.N.F. as well ?

Laurence's address: Restaurant, Coylumbridge Hotel, Aviemore
Inverness-shire.

LEEDS

David Corry, our candidate in Garforth Ward, followed the election with a Midsummer bonfire party which was very successful. Over 50 people attended, including children, all enjoyed themselves and £37 profit made for branch funds. More recently a joint Consoc/EP stand at a local show got us more publicity & raised £15, mainly from sale of duplicated letterheads on recycled paper (a while-u-wait service) and recycled loo paper. The profit was shared by Consoc & EP.

Assiduous fund-raising & careful use of our limited resources has enabled us to buy a small offset litho printing machine for £180 we expect delivery imminently. This will cut our campaign costs still further while enabling us to produce better quality leaflets. We will, of course, be happy to give quotations for printing work for other groups & the NEC.

Activity is rather limited at present due largely to people being on holiday, but activities for the autumn include a jumble sale, a trip on the Dales Rail & production of a West Yorkshire Manifesto. Candidate hunting continues as usual.

LONDON

Meetings continue on a regular basis. FUND raising remains a key activity, particularly as sufficient funds for the election campaign had not been raised prior to the election. Possibilities for further publicity are being sought on a more or less continuing basis. A branch bank account has been opened.

A possible new logo for the party has been discussed, made out of the letter EP & having the appearance of a tree, the stem of the P being the trunk. (Ed: reprographic dept, have failed in this issue so readers will have to work this out for themselves. If you do it right it does look quite good.)

All London members are of course welcome to meetings. Ring Steve Lambert on 848-4846 (evenings) for dates etc.

STEVENAGE

The group have arranged production of EP badges, which will be available at and after conference (from Dean Wayland, 4 Yarmouth Road, Stevenage, Herts. 15p each, postage for one 1lp; guess it if ordering larger numbers). The badges are shield-shape, green vinyl, about 3ins high with the party logo in white - peel off backing, stick to anything.

The group has also made a large flag - green with white logo and Dean Wayland has invested £70 in a loud hailer. (ED; sounds like Stevenage will be hearing about EP. Dean also tells me that East Cornwall used a plain green flag in their campaign. This sounds like a very simple & good idea).

SUSSEX

Viv. Bowser has found their campaign here leading onto more contacts & more activities. In particular the local group of FOE invited EP to take a stand at their Seaford Enviro-fair, and this in turn has led to even more contacts. Viv. has also been invited to give a talk to the FOE group at one of their monthly meetings.

TWINING WITH VALUES PARTY

A suggestion has come from the Values Party for linking some of their branches with some of ours for moral support & information exchange. Any groups interested contact Dave Stratton, International Secretary, N.Z. Values Party, PO Box 137, Wellington, New Zealand.

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ADDRESSOGRAPH & DUPLICATOR

An addressing machine & a packer machine have been purchased to help with regular & punctual newsletter. Regretably preparation of masters for this machine has delayed this issue. The idea of purchasing a duplicator has been dropped as using those of Peter Rout & Keith Rushworth fulfils the Party's needs.