

ECOLOGY PARTY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 1978

NO 2 (NEW SERIES)

EDITORIAL

There is every likelihood that there will be a General Election this year; as a political party we should therefore be working like beavers in preparation for such an event. But are we? If anyone who was not a member of the Party said to you: 'What are your attitudes to continued membership of the E.E.C.; do you agree with the union closed shop policy?' what would your answers be? You may have your own individual opinion about this, but could you quote the Party's line on them? You could not, because there isn't one.

We must hammer out these matters - and lots of others - because those are the questions that people want answered about any political party. It is no good saying that we are for a sustainable economy and against a growth economy; those who know little of these things will not know what we mean, and others will ask 'How will you accomplish your aims?' - and it is impossible to answer that because we cannot demonstrate in terms of our present economy as it effects the individual how we can do it.

Education, Defence, the Health Service, the Social Services - for all these and more we must have a definite policy - and a policy which people can understand and visualize. And we must do this all very quickly.

Write to the Newsletter with your view; if you have an organized Branch in your area speak about them at meetings.
WE MUST GET DOWN TO THE NITTY GRITTY AT ONCE

Howard S Hoptrough
(temporary address)
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26 Main Road
Kempsey
Worcester

SOUTH WEST REGIONAL CONFERENCE

A conference to initiate the South West Region of the Party is to be held in the Middle Lounge, Cornwall House, University of Exeter on Saturday January 21 - commencing at 11 a.m. and finishing at 7 p.m.

It will be chaired by Tony Whittaker, and will consider the administration and finances of the new region, elect officers and NEC representatives for the region, have a discussion led by Jeremy Faull, Cornwall County Councillor, on 'Ecology in Practice', and consider policies, literature and general strategy of the Party.

For further details apply to Peter Frings (Exeter 52857) or David Taylor (Acting Area Co-ordinator) (Warmwell 852858)

NUCLEAR INFORMATION NETWORK

The purpose of a meeting held on Saturday, November 26, 1977 was to discuss the lessons which we should all learn from the Windscale Enquiry, and to consider how best to plan for the Fast Breeder Reactor Enquiry. The meeting was considerably ham-strung by the absence of Friends of the Earth, who came in for a lot of criticism from all the other groups represented. There were reports from the Town and Country Planning Association, the Windscale Appeal, the Newtwork for Nuclear Concern and the Political Ecology and Research Group, all of which were involved in putting our side at Windscale.

It was generally held that FOE had acted throughout as big-headed and clumsy-footed prima donnas, and that they were largely responsible for the lack of co-ordination on our side; but, in the same breath, such critics would re-iterate the need for each group to maintain its own independence - exactly the kind of double-think which obviously bedevilled the whole enquiry.

Many commented on the lessons derived from the judicial process itself, particularly as regards the time and money wasted on matters which should all have been covered months in advance with a detailed environmental impact analysis. The general feeling was that it wasn't a waste of time and money, and that it served a valuable purpose as a public relations exercise, an impression slightly vitiated by the fact that throughout the entire enquiry all the groups participating couldn't come up with one joint press statement!

The meeting continued on Sunday, but unfortunately I couldn't be there to see how FOE defended themselves, or how they reacted to the call for a co-ordinating group to be set up now in order to prepare properly for the Fast Breeder Reactor Enquiry.

Jonathan Porritt

BALANCE SHEET at 31.10.77

	£		£
Cash in Bank at 1 November 1976	770.45	1976/77 Income and Expenditure Account Debit Balance	86.10
		Cash in hand 31 October 1977 (Balance of Membership Secretary's float)	7.24
		Cash in Bank at 31 October 1977	677.11
Capital Account (Purchase of Addressograph)	61.87	Asset - Addressograph (at cost)	61.87
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	832.32		832.32

FINANCIAL STATEMENT 1.11.76 to 31.10.77

Income and Expenditure Account Year ended 31.10.77

Expenditure			Income		
	£	£		£	£
Newsletter(5 issues)			Membership		
Dup'g. & paper	46.27		subscriptions	1021.00	
Postage	58.52	104.79	Manifesto sales	121.25	
Good Earth(5 issues)		204.50	Leaflet sales	26.97	
Election expenses			Postage received		
Walsell North			(from enquiries)	18.12	
by -election	737.79		Donations		
My local elect'ns			Walsell North		
(9 subs of £20.00)	180.00	917.79	bye-election	147.51	
1976 Conference			Others (incl.		
Costs	145.90		one of £100)	207.86	355.37
Less fees rec'd			Interest on		
since last year's			Deposit A/c		3.51
accounts	99.16	46.74			
4 Parties Ecology					
Groups Conference					
July 1977					
Hire of hall	22.00				
Less receipts	8.20	13.80			
1977 Conference					
Costs	461.12				
Less receipts	448.50	12.62			
Administration					
Telephone					
(NEC claims)	61.67				
Postage (NEC					
and enquiries)	65.08				
GPO reply paid					
service	15.00				
Stationery	14.78				
Photocopying,					
duplicating	5.31				
Petrol (NEC					
members)	20.00				
Long arm stapler					
and ledger	10.26				
Bank charges	3.11	215.21			
Donations and					
subscriptions					
Commwell Cons. For.	3.00				
People for Non-					
Nuclear World					
(Guardian advert)	50.00				
Nuclear Information					
Network	2.00	55.00	Excess of expenditure		
Addressograph		61.87	over income		86.10
		1632.32			1632.32

N.E.C. MEETINGS

A meeting of the NEC was held on 10 December, 1977, in London
Points of interest:

GOOD EARTH It was reported by Ron Andrews that issue 20 looked as though it would make a profit, and advertising was being booked at an increasing rate in future issues. It was decided to support the journal by giving £20 to the production of the next three issues (Nos. 21, 22 and 23)

MEMBERSHIP John Davenport reported that 28 new members had been enrolled since the previous NEC meeting (October 8). Lists of members in the Yorkshire and Humberside and West Midlands Areas had been dispatched, and the South West Region list was to be sent the following week. It was agreed to print membership cards as soon as possible - David Fleming and John Davenport were to get together on the design.

FINANCE A statement of Income and Expenditure for the year ending 31 October 1977 - and a Balance Sheet are elsewhere in this issue of the 'Newsletter'

SHORT MANIFESTO This was printed by Leeds Community Press, but the two printings made were not acceptable for circulation by the Party. It was agreed that Keith Rushworth offer Leeds Community Press £15 for the job as against the original quote of £45. An interim leaflet was written and duplicated by Keith Rushworth, and this is now available.

CONTACTS WITH OTHER GROUPS It was agreed that the Party should associate with other Groups where we can take part, but 'in name only' associations should not be encouraged.

HOUSE STYLE AND LOGO David Fleming produced proposed designs for these, based on the 'Euro style medium extended' type face, with the logo 'eco' within a squared off oval framework. John Luck and David Fleming were to confer on the type face, and it was agreed to drop the use of the former heading and symbol of the Party.

The next meeting was fixed for Saturday 11 February at David Fleming's at 12 noon.

THE ECOLOGY PARTY IN DEVON

The South West Region Conference - organised by David Taylor and Peter Kings - is noted elsewhere in the Newsletter.

A County Structure Plan with five options was recently distributed by Devon County Council, and the people of the county were asked to vote on their preferences amongst the options.

A little bird has said that there was a sixth option with a minimal growth theme, but that this was vetoed 'for political reasons'; press and public have been excluded from all meetings of the Structure Plan Sub-Committee ('publicity would be prejudicial to the best interests...' etc.); and apparently a large percentage of replies from the public have rejected all the council's options.

Devon Branch therefore printed and distributed their version of the County Structure Plan labelled 'Option 6'. It will be interesting to see what reactions arise, and congratulations should be extended to the Devon Branch for their enterprise.

ENERGY 2000 ANTI-NUCLEAR LOBBY OF PARLIAMENT ON NOVEMBER 16

About 300 concerned people turned up at the House of Commons' lobby queue at 2 o'clock to lobby their MPs against the extension of nuclear power. Amongst them were contingents of Ecology Party members from all over the country.

A meeting of sympathetic MPs was organised in the Grand Committee Room, and about 200 people managed to squeeze into the room to listen to the speakers. I did not hear them all myself, but someone coming out told me he got the impression that Tony Benn, speaking in his capacity as Energy Secretary, may actually share our point of view.

I eventually spoke to my MP at about 6.30, but I don't know how many others succeeded that afternoon, although I do know that various Party members met their MPs in their constituency surgeries at other times. My MP being a Deputy Speaker is effectively silenced in the House, although he claims to have the ear of ministers who he 'hob-nobs' with along his corridor. He told me that if I cared to write to him setting out the arguments he would do his best to forward the letter direct to the ministers concerned.

The whole exercise highlighted how inefficient the lobbying system is in the amount of time it consumes, and the apparent low success rate of actually making contact. The principle object of this exercise I took to be to get as much press coverage as possible for the cause, but our lobby was overwhelmed by the university teachers who had chosen the same day for their lobby, and who seemed to be there in their thousands.

There were organisational lessons to be learnt as well, and we missed a golden opportunity to pass out Party publicity amongst all the sympathetic queuers. On balance I felt it was all well worthwhile from the lessons we learnt and the contacts we made, although, of course, it could have been much better.

JOHN LUCK

TRAINING COURSES

Michael Benfield has kindly offered to set up and run training courses on:

1. Public speaking
2. Chairmanship and Committeemanship
3. Organisation and motivation
4. Running a campaign

He would also be prepared to consider other suggested topics. If anyone or any group or branch is interested, would they contact him at: New Buildings, Trinity Street, Coventry (Tel: 22048)

ECOLOGICAL ENTERTAINMENT

We have received a book of verse on the theme of man's derisory treatment of his planet from Howard Owen Griffiths. Copies of the booklet, entitled 'Meekmans Inheritance', are available from him at New Rustic Publishing, 31 Langton Road, Nerton, Malton, N. Yorks. at 30p a time.

SUSSEX BRANCH

A branch was formed last November - officers elected were:

Chairman: John Luck
Secretary: Mrs. Sherry Hoevelmann
Treasurer: Mrs. Beryl Bowser, Orcharddown,
Filching, Polegate, Sussex
(Tel: Polegate 3049)

Notice was taken of the event in the local press - here's wishing them all success

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir

Science and Values were both created by the process of evolution. In the past, we have always treated these three phenomena - science, values and evolution - as separate entities. The end product being the chaos in which we are at present submerged, in which there is a feeling of antagonism between man and man and between man and nature. But values are woven into the structure of our world and into the structure of our lives. They cannot be removed from either without imperilling each.

Values are woven into the structure of evolution and the time in history has now come to build a new structure for society, based on an evolved set of values.

As a political party intent upon restructuring society, we must embrace the sum of these values; we must show that we stand for a love of truth, for a sense of justice, for a recognition of interrelatedness and unity; we must stand for a spirit of co-operation and a belief in serving the common good; only what is good for all is good for each one.

Ecology has been the key in showing to us that only what is good for all is good for each one; through Ecology we recognize the interrelatedness of all life - the fundamental unity of life.

But in building a new society we must go one step further - we must embrace all these values.

We must look at the New Zealand Values Party and at similar movements in Europe. We must take a stand - not only on Survival, but also on Justice and Community.

To be more specific we must work to reduce the widening gap between rich and poor countries; we must work for the recognition that mankind is one race; we must show that we support individual freedom.

We must recognise that the family and community is essential to a satisfying way of life. Our present lifestyle is destroying both the family and the community.

I believe that if we are to survive and grow we must become more comprehensive, and I would like to suggest that as a Party we should consider this option - perhaps for discussion at Conference?

'The fate of men and nations is determined by the values which govern their decisions'

Yours fraternally

DAVID TAYLOR
(Acting Regional Co-ordinator for the South West)

Dear Sir

The 'big business' industrialism that thrives at present depends on large scale availability of raw materials, cheap power and credit financing. These three factors are not unrelated one to the other.

The Ecology Party foresees - dare one say, hopes for - a non expanding economy brought about by dwindling resources, and a weakened international position, combined with a conscious decision by the people of this country to forego nuclear power.

Knowing, as I do, less than nothing about economics, I am tempted to wonder at the prospects for large industrial concerns, the whole financial establishment, and a system of government itself, that seem to depend for their existence upon credit financing, which is in turn dependent upon an expanding economy. (And which, since the production of 'paper' money exceeds the production of goods, leads inevitably to inflation)

Is not this credit economy the Achilles heel of 'big business'? And our present lifestyle?

Has the Party taken into consideration as fully as possible the financial implications of a static economy, in order that its policies may take account of this important possibility: a slow paralysis of industry and government? One must prepare for a cataclysm, for it requires a cataclysm to bring a radical new party into power.

Yours sincerely

BRUCE JOHNSTON (of Harpenden)

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

This event is scheduled for June 5 this year, and the theme that the Environment Liaison Centre (its organisers) have decided upon is 'Development within environmental constraints'.

The ELC wish to know of any activities that any groups arrange for the Day, and in return will distribute a WED poster, pamphlets and information pack. The ELC address is: P.O. Box 72461, Nairobi, Kenya.

TRANSPORT WANTED

A vehicle (minimum 8 cwt.) plus driver is needed to transport a printing machine from Leeds to Dulverton in Devon. The machine is for the use of the South West Region, and is to be housed at Tony Whittaker's. Will anyone who can provide such a service - or who knows of anyone who can - please contact Tony Whittaker at Rhyll Manor, Dulverton, Somerset Tel: Anstey Mills 225)

TRANET

We have received a copy of this periodical. It is an American publication established 1 - to help those groups (Appropriate/Alternative Technology Centers) develop ~~multilateral~~ bilateral exchanges with one another, and 2 - to promote a dialogue on the A.T. Concepts. There are various types and ~~xx~~ costs of subscription - anyone interested can write to them at: P.O. Box 567, Rangeley, ME 04970 USA.

EUROPE-ECOLOGY

Representatives of ecological and environmental movements in seven countries of the European Economic Community agreed at a meeting in Paris on Saturday 19 November to campaign together in the forthcoming elections for the European Parliament under the banner 'Europe-Ecology'

The meeting was convened by Les Amis de la Terre de Paris; the United Kingdom was represented by Jonathan Tyler, our Chairman, and by Tom Burke, Friends of the Earth, London, in a personal capacity

The rejection by Parliament of any form of proportional representation has reduced the impact that the candidates of new movements will have in this country, but nevertheless, the chances are better than in our own elections

The next planning meeting of Europe-Ecology will be held in Brussels in February

EAST DORSET BRANCH

This new branch has been set up recently The officers are:

- Co-ordinator: David Taylor
- Treasurer: Ian Hatwell, 20 Spring Road,
Bournemouth
- Secretary: Debbie Savage, 30 Martey Road,
Boscombe, Bournemouth
- Press/Publicity: Chris Marchant, 82 Victoria Road,
Springborne, Bournemouth
- Fund Raiser: Jim Keeling, 22 Horse Road,
Southborne, Bournemouth

BUDGET

The Chancellor of the Exchequer is not the only one who has problems of adding up the cost - the only difference is that he has a few more 'zeros' to contend with!!

Herewith the Party's projected expenditure:

NEC expenses	£300
Printing and publications (less £100 for sales)	£200
General Election expenses (£100 subsidy for 5 candidates)	£500
Newsletter and Good Earth (6 issues at £70)	£420
Membership expenses	£100
Press and Publicity	£80
Good Earth (6 issues at £20 goodwill payments)	£120
	£1720

STOP PRESS

Guy Woodford is standing for a District Council casual vacancy It is for a seat in the Cradley (Ward 12) of Malvern Hills District Council The poll is on February 2 We all wish him well - anyone in the area who can manage it would be welcome as helpers

STOP WINDSCALE Demonstration and Rally at Hyde Park and Trafalgar Square 12.30-4.00 on Sunday March 19 More details next issue

COPY DATE Contributions for next issue by March 1, please!