

# ecology party

## newsletter

MARCH 1978

No.3 New Series

### EDITORIALS

#### Desperate Despond

And so Mr. Justice Parker marks himself out for the history books - the man who initiated Britain's slide into the slippery slope of the reprocessing of waste nuclear fuel and perhaps - at the end of it - into the deep, endless well of nuclear destruction

Now that the ban on marches in London has so conveniently postponed the 19 March Anti-Windscale march and demonstration in Trafalgar Square to 29 April, there will be no public showing of opposition to this very important decision which could affect the quality of life for everyone in this country in its capital. So we must get together with other organisations and mount public demonstrations in every town and city in the country that we can

Go to it, fellow party members - think and act on every legal method of showing public opposition to this catastrophic policy

#### Party Pressures

We must be careful not to repress the Party at its grass roots - this is where the enthusiasm and the energy comes for the progress and influence of the Party

There are two items in this issue of the NEWSLETTER that demonstrate the rather heavy-handed approach of the N.E.C. to its grass roots - the election of the South West representative and the guidelines for Election Strategy

There would seem to have been every good reason why the South West Conference should ignore the N.E.C. requirement for a postal ballot for the election of its representative - there were, after all, forty (40) members present

And it would seem to be quite adequate for the N.E.C. to suggest, say, that the Branch has at least £500 before fighting a General Election - and make no other stipulations. On what basis does the N.E.C. propose to assess potential candidates - what regional organisation exists to refer suspect candidates to them? And why dribble away funds by the niggardly support of £25 for each potential election campaign - far better retain it for use as a sum of £500 for use at national level. The N.E.C. should back off and allow the Branches to evolve, despite mistakes on the way

HOWARD S HOPTROUGH

Editor

5 Morrab Terrace

Penzance, Cornwall (Tel: 4880)

(Back at the Old Ranch!)

eco

The N.E.C. meeting held on 11 February 1978 in London

Points of interest:

- \* The representative for the Yorkshire and Humberside Region sent a letter of apology for not attending the meeting
- \* David Taylor was welcomed to the N.E.C. as the newly-elected member for the South West Region
- \* Literature: The leaflet 'Invitation to membership' was to have 5,000 copies printed and available within about three weeks, and the single leaflet was to have 20,000 copies printed, the two together to be within a budget of £300. It was agreed, also, to have 200 copies of the existing Manifesto (with the 1976 amendments) printed on a budget of £100, and a cover price of 60-75p. This was to be for distribution to members only
- \* John Davenport (Membership Secretary) reported that by the next Newsletter the new subscription system will be working (for explanation see elsewhere in this Newsletter). Membership at 9.2.78 was 328 (Editor: Today (7.3.78) it stands at 373), and applications for membership or enquiries were being received daily. A printed membership card is to be produced
- \* It was decided to revoke the previous decision of the N.E.C. taken in October last year on the method of electing the Regional representative to the N.E.C., as the South West Region at its Conference on 21 January had elected its representative at that time, with about 40 members present
- \* It was decided to accept David Fleming's offer of his 'phone number as the official one for the Party, and, as such, it will be entered in the next available issue of the telephone directory. The number is 01 (London) 794 5644
- \* It was agreed that the Party should not affiliate to any other organisations at present
- \* Each member of the N.E.C. - and others also present - gave their personal views on what the policies of the Party should be, and particularly on the kind, content and style of the Party's literature

The next meeting was fixed for Saturday 8 April at David Fleming's for 12 noon

#### TORNNESS - SCRAM!

The Scottish Campaign to Resist the Atomic Menace (SCRAM) is organising a mass demonstration against the choice of site for the next nuclear power station on Saturday and Sunday, 6 and 7 May next

People are asked to assemble at Dunbar at midday on 6 May; there will then be a march to Torness and a mass rally at the site. SCRAM would like to know of anybody who can organise publicity and transport from their area, bring alternative technology, entertainment etc., bring tents and food etc., and raise funds to support the rally. Will anyone who can do any of these things get in touch with SCRAM, 2a Ainslie Place, Edinburgh 3 (Tel: 031 225 7752)

#### CONSOC SYMPOSIUM

A one day symposium on 6 April on the subject of 'Lead pollution - health hazards' will be held at University College, London. For further details contact Consoc Pollution Working Party..168 Dora Road, London S W 19

To: <sup>Davenport</sup>  
National Membership Sec,  
2, The Old Vicarage,  
26, Mann Rd,  
- 3 Kempsey,  
WORCESTER.

### TRANSITION MEMBERSHIP 1978

To facilitate the move from joining date membership to calendar year membership the following arrangements will apply:

1. Anyone renewing membership, ~~rejoining~~ between 1 January and 30 April, 1978, will pay a subscription at the following full rates:  
Individual full membership: £4  
Joint " " " " £6 (couple in same h'hold)  
" student or pensioner: £3 ( " " " )  
Student or pensioner: £2 (student in F/T education or under 16)  
(pensioner: men over 65, women over 60)
2. Members who ~~renew~~ renew between 1 May and 31 August, 1978 pay £3 (or £4.50; £2.25 or £1.50 as appropriate)
3. Members who ~~renew~~ renew between 1 September and 31 December, 1978 pay £2 (or £3; £1.50 or £1, as appropriate)
4. Associate membership no longer applies
5. Members who join for the first time between 1 January and 31 August, 1978, will be due to renew membership on 1 January, 1979
6. Members who join for the first time between 1 September and 31 December, 1978, will be due to renew membership on 1 January 1980. A similar arrangement will apply in succeeding years
7. Names and addresses of people actively supporting branch activities, and who are regarded as potential members by the branch officials, will be forwarded to the Membership Secretary. When branch secretaries forward details of first joining members to the Membership Secretary they should also indicate if any of them have already been notified as potential members

### HAS IT GOT ONE TO STAND ON?

LEG (Liberal Ecology Group) held an open meeting and its first A.G.M. in London on 18 February last. The meeting opened with an introduction by the chairman, Tony Beamish, who explained the formation of LEG following a series of lectures in 'Liberal News'. It is now represented on most of the Party's policy panels (but not that for Economics). Membership is close to triple figures, and Michael Steen, M.P., has become patron of the Group. The major part of the meeting was a talk by Dr. Len Taitz, of the Conservation Society. The A.G.M. that followed dealt with the drawing up of a constitution, subscriptions (£1 or £2), re-election of existing officers with minor changes of job. Some discussion followed, including references to the Energy Panel, which, it was alleged, was packed with technical experts of various kinds who were ignoring the Party conferences anti-nuclear motions.

The above is a summary of a report by ADRIAN WILLIAMS

- 4 -

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir

What is being done to publicise the Ecology Party?

If it is a Party of the People, how come there are no people in it? It is time to push ourselves under the public eye. One way to do this is to place small advertisements in magazines with a high circulation, especially 'Time Out', 'New Statesman' - and possibly some daily or weekly newspapers.

The advertisements can be small, concise and cheap, may be following the lines of the advertisement currently placed in 'Good Earth'. However, to get people interested, it is important that no plan for subscriptions be made at this stage. Instead, the advertisement should end with the words '...for further information contact...' Enquirers can then be sent a short document on policy and aims of the Party, and also membership details.

Here's hoping for some fast, productive action

Yours etc.

PETER YOUNG

(Editor: I am sure that we would very much like to advertise ourselves in 'Time Out' and the national dailies, but the cost would be prohibitive. And by not asking for subscriptions in any of our advertisements, we would almost certainly forego a large number of subscriptions which people would be willing to make before receiving any literature or details.)

One way of gaining publicity for the Party without incurring any cost except for a postage stamp would be for lots of members to write a letter to the local paper on any local environmental or conservation issue - whether it is a matter of discussion at the time or not - and signify that you are a member of the Party in the subscription to your letter. If one does this fairly frequently people will become aware that there is a Party which deals with ecological matters. The inaugural meeting of the East Anglian Branch at Norwich (see notice elsewhere in this issue) on 1 April has come about entirely through letters to the local press.)

Dear Sir

I recently joined the Party, despite there being no manifesto readily available for me to check that I was in agreement with the broad lines of party policy. I was therefore most concerned when, on recently obtaining a copy for brief perusal, I found this paragraph (from the 1976 reprint of the 1975 Manifesto): '- 12.2 After careful investigation and international consultations, import restrictions would be imposed while current measures for the encouragement and support of experts would be retained'

I sincerely hope that such political naivety, capable of making us a laughing stock with the politically educated, will not be repeated in the new Manifesto which I understand is being prepared.

No amount of 'international consultations' would prevent retaliatory tariffs and quotas being set against us if we were to pursue such action. If we really want a 'siege economy' (a point I would dispute) it would have to be introduced sufficiently slowly to allow a changeover of

human and material resources from export-orientated industries to the requirements of a self-sufficient society. The introduction of artificial trade barriers at any point in that process could only cause confusion, economic complications and a sharp jump in unemployment

It is fallacious to believe that we can export our economic problems, and, in any case, why should we try? Can we afford to ignore that fact that growth-orientated economics, the depletion of natural resources, over-population etc., are world problems?

I believe that the 'siege economy' is an over-reaction to our present situation, and an inefficient means of organising ourselves. If a nation has the sense and awareness to control its abuse of natural resources as regards its own home market, surely it can be expected to exercise the same responsibility in its trade policies? If we decide to mine less coal and produce less electricity, we would hardly be likely to decide to dig it out in order to trade it for pineapples and transistor radios

I hope the Party will show a greater awareness of the global nature of ecological problems in its future thinking

yours sincerely

IAN HATWELL

#### THE NEXT A.G.M. and ANNUAL CONFERENCE

A date for this has been fixed - September 9/10, with the venue University House, Birmingham (as last year). All-in cost for Saturday and Sunday will be about £12. There will be fuller details in the next issue of the NEWSLETTER

#### SOUTH BIRMINGHAM BRANCH

Starting with the people who had shown even a glimmer of response to canvassing in last year's County elections we have now succeeded in forming a branch in South Birmingham. It has just begun to consolidate and take on life, with fourteen (14) members of the National Party, a candidate chosen for the District elections in May and an intention to contest Selly Oak in the next General Election

Apart from the fund-raising activities already under way (it proved extraordinarily easy to raise £42 at a 'Bring and Buy'), members have presented book reviews at meetings (for example, Bishop Taylor's 'Enough is enough'), and we are plotting other ways of showing how the ecological life can be lived even in a conventional urban setting - we hope to report some new ideas on this soon

Meanwhile, Jonathan is collecting a catholic record of groups he's been asked to address: Toc H, South Place Ethical Society, the Unitarians in Birmingham, senior local government officers (that one comes from declaring one's position politically - mere support of a pressure group would not have prompted it), two community discussion groups - and an interview for the Parish magazine. Thus is the word spread

BRENDA TYLER

## ELECTION STRATEGY

The argument as between many or a few candidates was seen to be a matter of laying down guidelines on what was required before the N.E.C. would encourage a candidature. Realistically we reckoned that this would tend to mean relatively few candidates unless the election is late and we have mushroom growth. We did, however, decide to adjust the outline budget from 5 x £100 to 20 x £25 for national support (approximately two to a region). The guidelines are: a good candidate; an organisation to prepare the ground in advance, especially where we have not fought a local election; twenty-five (25) helpers in urban areas, forty (40) in rural areas with plenty of time and sufficient help to take advantage of Freepost; money (£150 deposit plus at least £50). We decided that some control over the selection of candidates is essential, but the N.E.C. should only be involved as a last resort - the regions will therefore have the job of confirming branch decisions. In addition to the money above, the national Party will bear the cost of the standard Manifesto for the election (along the lines suggested by David Fleming) - whether or not to have local overprinting was left undecided by the mechanics may rule it out.

We shall have to discuss another time the criteria for choice of seats (not easy). We discussed possible local candidacies separately.

JONATHAN TYLER

## BRISTOL AND WEST AVON BRANCH

From now until 5 May the Branch will be working hard in preparation for the District Council elections on that day. There will be a meeting at the White Bear, St. Michael's Hill, Bristol at 7.30 on 15 March.

The secretary for the branch is now: Thelma Grimes,  
51 Kipling Avenue, Bath (Tel: 29146)

The Bristol co-ordinator is: Maurice Weekes (Tel: Bristol  
671559)

DON GRIMES

## A DISTRICT COUNCIL ELECTION

Guy Woodford is quite a distinctive character - top hat, long hair and an open, ancient car. Recently he stood in a bye-election for Ward 12 (Cradley) Malvern Hills District Council. It is a rural area, and Guy put in a lot of hard work over the three parishes that made up the ward. The results were: Conservative 386; Guy 261 and Independent Conservative: 111 - so Guy got approximately 35% of the votes cast, which is good going on any basis. Good luck next time, Guy!

## THE OTHERS!

Frequently we come across - indeed, some of us are members of - other organisations working in the ecological field. In the next issue we hope to provide some short, sharp facts about these organisations.

SOUTH WEST REGIONAL CONFERENCE, 21 January 1978  
held at the University of Exeter

After being invited, Tony Whittaker assumed the chair, read the relevant parts of the Party constitution to illustrate the business of the Conference, and asked those present to introduce themselves

About forty (40) people attended, and it was agreed that all those who were members or intended becoming members in 1978 should have voting rights at the Conference

Despite an agreed procedure for a postal ballot at the last Annual Conference and A.G.M. of the Party, it was decided to elect a Regional representative to the N.E.C. at the Conference This was duly carried out later in the meeting, and David Taylor was elected, there being no other nominations

Discussions on subscriptions ended by agreement that full subscriptions should be remitted to the Membership Secretary except where members belong to branches In these cases Branch secretaries will remit three-quarters of the subscription to the Membership Secretary There will be no regional collection in the South West

East Dorset (mainly Bournemouth), Devon, Somerset, Bristol and West Avon and Bath and East Avon are now functioning branches, and West Dorset, West Cornwall and East Cornwall may become branches soon Current activities consist of Devon's production of 'Option 6' for Devon's structure plan, East Dorset's opposition to the planned growth in Ringwood, Somerset's opposition to the present plans for the Somerset levels and a fund raising dance, and a joint street theatre by West Dorset members and Weymouth Friends of the Earth Somerset branch expect to field five candidates in the District Council elections in May, whilst East Dorset may be able to field three candidates if elections are held in Bournemouth

After discussion, the Chair proposed a resolution - which was agreed to by the Conference by consensus - that 'the N.E.C. produce a new draft manifesto, or reprint the 1975 manifesto with the 1976 amendments'

There was some discussion on parliamentary candidates and constituencies

It was generally agreed to call another South West Regional Conference in about six months

ECOLOGY IN PRACTICE - a talk by Jeremy Faulk:  
Cornwall County Councillor of the Ecology Party

The following are notes on his talk:

In local politics there is little that one can do that is not limited by central government, either by legislation or by finance, or by the structure of local government itself For example, road maintenance in Cornwall Cornwall has a large mileage of sideroads and country lanes; if they are repaired regularly costs can be kept to a minimum The Government, however, assesses the financial allocation for this purpose on the population figures - Cornwall has quite a small population, and road use is heavy because of the tourists in the summer The financial allocation is not sufficient to maintain the roads at the level to keep costs at a minimum

All the councillors are agreed on the need to maintain the roads, but their only means of raising money to meet the cost is by raising the rates. They are not, however, allowed to do this by the Government!

Jeremy Faull illustrated the fact that the issues which face county councillors are rarely clear-cut by instancing several issues from his experience as a member of the County Planning Committee, and also of the Sea Fisheries Committee.

He emphasised the limitations of being a lone wolf (Editor: Sorry - 'voice'), and that of the council structure itself. He pointed out, however, that however limited, it did provide an opportunity for him to influence the opinions of others. He suggested that we had between five and twenty years before we got into serious trouble, and that the general public should be made aware of the reality of the situation and the problems that face us, that the aims of the Party should reflect this awareness, and that the introduction of harsh measures might then be possible.

He suggested several areas which needed immediate party policy discussion: high unemployment, which dictates political decisions in this country at the moment. It is estimated that, in addition to the unemployed, there are about five million people employed on the production of goods that are not needed. World demand for goods is diminishing - how do we cope with this problem?

North Sea oil may generate a few jobs for a few years, but it really does nothing other than delay the 'crunch'; the E.E.C. is committed to growth with supernational authorities - we are torn between our belief in self-sufficiency and that of global co-operation and 'The Brotherhood of Man'.

The Welfare State is contrary to our theory of community self-help; at the same time, it is an entrenched part of our way of life; immigration and racialism again present us with two opposing points of view - the fact that stable societies are rendered unstable by other cultures with different values, and our belief in equality and the abolition of discrimination.

What is our stance towards the National Front? We have a surprising amount of points of policy in common with them. What is the degree of devolution which we believe in? Do we not need a central government to implement eco-policies? Should we align ourselves on the political front? We'll have more influence if we join others, and if it is correct that the Right is causing more damage than the Left, might it be a case of choosing the lesser of two evils? And if we are thinking in terms of a siege economy, should we now severely control our imports?

#### EAST ANGLIAN BRANCH

The inaugural meeting of this branch is arranged for 1 April in Norwich at 3 p.m. Because of the larger number of people now expected, the venue has had to be changed to a larger one, and it is now to be held at the Central Library. Ron Spathaky, of 31 Meadow Rise Road, Norwich, may be contacted for details.



## THE ANTI-WINDSCALE DEMONSTRATION 29 April

This is the new date for this demonstration - please note it is now a Saturday. Arrangements will be as for 19 March - i.e. will all Ecology Party members please assemble by 12 o'clock (midday!) at the Hyde Park (west) end of North Row - a road running into Park Lane almost opposite Marble Arch. A banner bearing the legend 'Devon Ecology Party' will be in evidence.

## WHAT'S ALL THIS ABOUT 'ECO'?

This issue of the NEWSLETTER launches the Ecology Party's new look, adopted at the National Executive Committee meeting on the 10 December, 1977.

There is now a new atmosphere abroad. The first period of significant public interest in ecology was in 1972 and 1973, the years of the Stockholm Conference and the first energy crisis. Then there was some relaxation, when the Daily Mail announced that the 'ecology boom is bust', and many people began to think that everything is going to be alright after all. Now, however, there is once again a change of atmosphere and there are signs that the public is beginning to take the subjects which concern the Ecology Party more seriously than ever before.

Now is the time, therefore, to make the following statement of intent. The Ecology Party is not setting out to be a minority party, attracting protest votes from people who think the industrial society is too harsh but cannot see any way of changing it; it is setting out to build up firm political support with a view to eventually forming an Ecology Government. We must now, therefore, begin to develop an image which makes sense to very large numbers of people.

This is the main reason for ECO (pronounced with a long 'e'). ECO is a short word, easy to say, easy to combine with other words, less academic-sounding than 'ecology', more usable in speeches, interviews and articles, free of the cumbersome suffix 'ecology'. ECO can become a nickname even more important to the Ecology Party than the ancient nickname 'Tory' (or brigand) is to the Conservatives.

So the first consideration was to define a way of presenting the word ECO. We have chosen a modern typeface - Microgramma Extended Medium - which is based on the shape of the softened rectangle. The reasons for the choice of this typeface were as follows:

1. In design terms it makes sense that the letters E C O should all be a similar shape.
2. It has the element of surprise. Most people will be expecting the Ecology Party to have a nice comforting old typeface, appropriate for what one critic recently described as 'muesli politics'. The Microgramma has modern associations and is appropriate for a party that looks ahead to the imperative building of a society with a future.

The more observant readers will have noticed that the frame round the ECO symbol does not contain any straight lines; the top and bottom borders are curved in the same shape as the softened rectangle of the letters

Likewise the Ecology Party is written in the Microgramma typeface to match the ECO symbol

For people who think that the type style we have adopted for the Party's name is too harsh and 'unecological', there is some good news. The textface for Ecology Party literature will be Bembo, which is one of the oldest and best-looking Renaissance typefaces

It was cut by Francesco Griffo of Bologna, who was later responsible for the first 'italic' type, and it was first used in a pamphlet published in Venice by Aldus Manutius Romanus in 1495. The author of the pamphlet was Pietro Bembo, who was later made a Cardinal and Secretary to Pope Leo X

Since the Ecology Party is a democratic party, there can be no question of insisting on every region adopting a standard typeface, and there is no reason at all why regions should not develop their own designs for literature, posters etc. Nevertheless, on balance, there is considerable publicity advantage in having a standard look for the Party wherever it appears in print, and I shall be very happy to supply prints and references to anyone who would like any help

Since adopting this housestyle, we have had pleasant confirmation of its versatility. It is possible to produce some very attractive and striking designs with the Microgramma, as you will see with the two pieces of literature - a Handout and the Introduction to the Party - which are now at the printers and will be available shortly

DAVID FLEMING

PLEASE NOTE: Deadline date for next NEWSLETTER is:

1 May 1978

The date of your membership renewal  
and amount of minimum subscription is: JAN 79 £4

(If you have not claimed student/pensioner status for membership you should do so at your next renewal, and adjust the minimum subscription amount accordingly - see Page 3 of this issue of the NEWSLETTER)