

## PEOPLE

NEWSLETTER. AUGUST. 1974

### EDITORIAL

#### PEOPLE DON'T BITE.

How active is your area organisation? How many members are there? How many constituency groups have you got going? How many ward committees are active in each constituency?

If you feel these are challenging questions then may be you aren't communication.

PEOPLE is basically communication. If you know all the wisdom in the universe and have none to whom you could communicate, you would be unhappy.

People don't bite. Ask them over to a social evening to discuss forming a community action group. When they get there, don't ask them to join. Just elect them as officers. Get them to agree on future meetings and programs.

Assume they want to know more about PEOPLE. Explain PEOPLE offhandedly as though its sort of strange they don't know and get on with group organisation and business.

GROUPS FAIL TO FORM IN ABSENCE OF PURPOSE. PEOPLE FAIL TO JOIN IN ABSENCE OF PURPOSE THEY CAN UNDERSTAND.

Mock up the purpose. Invite in the people. Form up a programme around the purpose and away you go.

Don't run instruction courses on them. Assume they've decided and lo! you've got a group.

If you don't have one it's because you've been trying to explain PEOPLE to people and so get them to join. Just get them to join and let it soak in.

A group is fun.

A Group is communication.

A group is society.

It's a poor man who isn't king in some corner. Form a group and stop being poor. Form a group.

#### K. Michael Benfield.

1. Area Organisers Conference will be Saturday 28th. September. 1974
2. N.E.C. Vacancy created by Mr. Percy-Davis's resignation. Nominations should be sent to Clive Lord. National Secretary. They should be properly nominated and seconded. Candidates should understand that the new committee member would be given the primary responsibility for fund raising originally allotted to Mr. Percy-Davis.
3. Funds, Subscriptions and voting rights. Area Organisers are asked in the future, to pay a levy of £1 per head per year per member. Isolated individuals should be enrolled on payment of £1.50 per year, both to fall due on the first of January. Members are asked to submit their opinions to Clive Lord on the idea that the voting rights of an area organisation should be related to the number of declared paid up members of that organisation.
4. Revised manifesto. Upto the 28th. July. 1974 there have been 19 replies to the circular from Peter Allen requesting co-operation in setting up working groups to revise the manifesto. Fourteen of these were to offer to participate with the result that groups have been set up on Population, Economy, Energy and Fuel, Natural Resources, Social Welfare, Education, Foreign Policy, Public Admin. and Government and Transport. Groups have not been set up on Agriculture, Employment, Industry, Defence, Housing and Justice. Some of these groups now working also lack strength. It was disappointing that only 5 of the 33 listed area organisers responded. They, more than anyone else, have to be the centres of stimulation and inspiration in the party and if they do not give their full co-operation in this project it is doubtful whether it can succeed. One outside group, Transport 2000, approached to co-operate in the production of the Transport Section, responded enthusiastically, which was very encouraging.
5. Replacement of Programme. Believing that a programme is needed for the expected October election, and since it is evident that this is not going to emerge from the policy working parties. The N.E.C. have agreed that there must be a guidance to candidates on the major 2 or 3 points to which we would attach priority and that

something performing the function of the deleted manifesto programme should be circulated headed "A Programme for Parliament" and "NEC recommendations to candidates." P.M.A. will produce this and a further order of priorities.

6. Forthcoming Election. The N.E.C. Feel that the party should field as many candidates as it can afford. Areas are asked to state whether, and how many candidates they could manage, or alternatively, will they offer donations to other areas for this purpose - all replies to K.M. Benfield or Clive Lord.

7. Overseas. Clive Lord has received 8 re-directed enquiries, so far, from the U.S.A. for "Movement for Survival" all apparently resulting from the publication there of "Blueprint". There has also been an enquiry regarding "Movement for Survival" from a New Zealand documentary film company.

8. Change of address. Please note that Robin Frampton is now at :  
Hill Farm Cottage.

Ellisfield

Nr. Basingstoke.

Hampshire.

Tel : Herriard 385.

9. Capital Radio. On Thursday 11th July. Tony and Lesley Whittaker took part in a phone in radio programme "OPEN LINE" covering London establishing wide coverage and additional good contacts for PEOPLE. The Panel included Dr. Kirst Pedlar of "Doomwatch fame" Professor John Vasey. Mrs. Charlotte Hurst of Citizens Protection Bureau, Dr. Edward Goldsmith and Tom Burke of F.O.E. and was entitled "DOOM" - What can you do?

10. Newspaper. N.E.C. reaction to the suggestion that PEOPLE has its own newspaper is mixed. The majority of replies to the request for help with the manifesto contained a reference to it, though only six people said that they would contribute articles. None of these was an area organiser.

There were suggestions that we do not start our own paper, but ask for space in an existing ecological/conservation periodical, at least until we are a bigger and stronger organisation. It is felt that because of the poor response from potential contributors, this may be the best approach for the time being. Very few offered to compile pamphlets, yet this is possibly the best way to obtain publicity at the present c.f. a recent publication by FoE. It may be possible to turn the documents produced by the manifesto working groups into publishable pamphlets.

11. News from Leeds. There has been some national publicity for the fact that Bradford Council has begun a pilot scheme for collecting newspaper. It is less widely known that Leeds Metro Council began a similar scheme a week before Bradford. PEOPLE members, co-operating with other groups in the community have been actively collaborating with the Council sub committee on recycling in the formulation of a scheme for collection. This expression of public interest and support for the scheme was much appreciated by the sub committee.

12. Northwest Environmental Groups Information Bank. At a conference in Liverpool this spring it was suggested that there was a clear need for an interchange of knowledge between the many voluntary bodies and organisations concerned, directly or indirectly, with the environment. It was felt that best use could be made of limited resources if a central pool of information about the activities and resources of individual groups was available. In particular, information on the following would be of value :

1. General campaign - the organisation, problems and successes.
2. Transport and planning - experiences in studies, consultation and participation in public inquiries etc.
3. Practical projects - clean ups, recycling projects etc.
4. Education - a) Do you do any work in the field of adult and school education.  
b) Have you any exhibition or general information material available.  
c) Do you have speakers and/or films available.

5 Other Resources. - what have you in the way of : a) Professional expertise.  
b) Office equipment - printing, silk screens etc. c) Contacts - press, politicians, industry etc.?

It is planned to produce a dossier of activities and available resources in the North West. A Summary of the information will be sent to all respondents, who will then be able to obtain more detailed information by contacting Nick Warren or Malcolm Kimber.

It is hoped to complete the dossier in September and the organisers therefore appreciate a prompt response. We ask also that you present your information as clearly and concisely as possible (in note form if desired) to enable them to collate it quickly and efficiently.

Anyone appreciating the potential value of this exercise will, no doubt, be willing to participate.

Please reply to : Malcolm Kimber  
Council for the Protection of Rural England.  
Samlesbury Hall  
Preston New Rd.  
Samlesbury  
PR15 OUF

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13. Newsletter circulation. is to a) All area organisers as representatives for their group. b) All paid up members not otherwise a member of an area organisation. c) All members of the N.E.C.

14. Items of interest. Questions or points of view for inclusion in this newsletter should be sent to National Communications Officer : K.Michael Benfield New Buildings, Trinity St. Coventry.

15. The Manifesto. should now soon be available from the printers. To secure your copy please send a large S.A.E. and a minimum payment of 50p (more if you can afford it) per copy to Lesley Whittaker 69 Hertford St. Coventry.

PLEASE ENSURE THAT THIS IS PASSED AROUND TO ALL MEMBERS OF YOUR GROUP.

K.M. Benfield.

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN.

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I/WE are going to field ---- candidates at the next General Election.  
I/WE are able to give £ support to other areas to field candidates at the next election.  
I/WE are able to provide----- people to physically support other areas at the next election.

AREA \_\_\_\_\_ NAME : \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

