



green party  
**Southwest Area  
NEWSLETTER**



**DECEMBER 1989**

**DEVON MEETING**

**Finch Foundry Museum, Sticklepath, 4th November 1989**

A tour of the museum added interest to this meeting at which most of the Devon Local Parties, old and new, were represented and gave a report of their current situation.

After discussions on a variety of topics, the following agreements emerged:-

- 1) Further co-operation and association between Devon parties was desirable, but the current uncertainty over the final SW Area composition and constitutional arrangements precluded any immediate decision on the details of a Devon Green Party Federation.
- 2) It was felt necessary to have a Devon Press Agent, and Roger Giles was elected to serve.
- 3) It was felt desirable to have a Devon Election Agent, although no nominations were immediately forthcoming. Chris Dent volunteered to read the proposed job description! Anyone else interested in this post, please contact Alan Toothill.
- 4) Catherine Simmons of North Devon L.P. was willing to help parties by talking on her experiences of electioneering and being a local councillor.
- 5) Efforts will be made to hold public meetings and otherwise stimulate the setting up of a local party to cover the Teignmouth area. Exeter L.P. promised support after the May elections were out of the way.
- 6) A press statement would be issued condemning the Devon County Council's plans to sell off small holdings. (Roger Giles also was heard on Radio Devon 8th November on this subject).
- 7) The next meeting would consist of a workshop day at Exeter. (Now scheduled for 27th January - q.v.)
- 8) By January it should be clearer how SW Area will evolve. If it was felt necessary to hold a meeting in February to discuss Devon's role in the new area, this would be fixed at the workshop meeting. Alan Toothill would welcome for circulation any specific proposals that were sent to him.

**ALAN TOOTHILL  
DEVON COUNTY CO-ORDINATOR.**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY  
TO OUR OLDEST GREEN**

Britain's oldest Green Party member, Hetty Hoskins, recently celebrated her 100th birthday in Bideford. Hetty's daughter Doris Bray and grand-daughter Christine Bray are also North Devon Green Party members. Hetty puts her longevity down to homoeopathy and not taking tablets. Belated Happy Birthday wishes to Hetty from the SW Area Newsletter. Hetty was born in South Wales.



**HUGO'S WATER PROTEST**

Bideford's deputy Mayor, Hugo Barton (Green Party) sent SW Water a bill for the water container he felt forced to buy in anticipation of water standpipes being introduced. (N.Devon Gazette 14.9.89). Mr. Barton was outraged on behalf of the people of Bideford.

## SW AREA MEETING BRISTOL 14th October 89

Following the decision at the Wolverhampton Conference to set up a new Severnside area the last meeting of the old SW Area took place in Bristol on 14th October at the Shepherds Hall. In fact for most of the day there were two meetings, the new Severnside area (Glos., Avon and Somerset) and the remainder in a new, and probably temporary SW Area (Cornwall, Devon, Dorset and Wiltshire).

A motion was passed to allow both Dorset and Wiltshire to leave the new SW Area provided that South Central Area will accept them, and subject to a postal ballot of members. This was passed with just one abstention and no votes against.

Jamie McMillan had done a lot of work on the organisation and circulated job descriptions for Area and County co-ordinators, plus one for a new area agent. It was also agreed to have the AGM in March.

The reorganisation left the new SW Area without a representative on Green Party Council, so it was decided to appoint someone for the interim until a ballot could be held. Jamie McMillan had decided to resign as the SW Area co-ordinator so an acting co-ordinator also had to be appointed. It was agreed this should be someone in Cornwall or Devon.

There was a long discussion on the SW Area budget and the figures provided by Sue Birley. Some people wanted to increase the expenses for County Co-ordinators from £100 to £200, but it was generally felt that hiring halls, etc., was the responsibility of the local party. Nearly everyone was against raising County Co-ordinators' expenses, with 2 abstentions. A motion to raise the start up grant for new local parties had much more support as without it there would be no new branches. The proposal to raise the start up grant for new local parties from £25 to £50 with effect from 15th October 1989 was carried with Howard Hoptrough voting against and two abstentions.

Pete Marjoram, who has been doing tremendous work helping new branches start up in East Cornwall, raised the subject of local electoral pacts at the General Election. The general opinion on this was against although no hard and fast rules were given. Many constituencies still have not short listed their prospective parliamentary candidates.

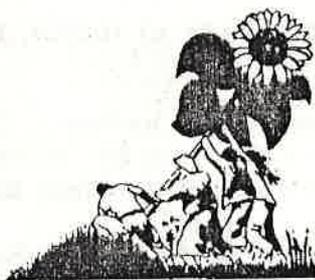
There was applause for Howard Hoptrough who recently won a seat on Penzance Town Council in a bye election there. Reports were given from the various local parties including Exeter who hope to contest all twelve seats next year.

In the afternoon at the meeting of all the old SW Area, Howard Hoptrough challenged the accuracy of the minutes. He said it had been proposed and seconded at the last meeting that David Oddie be the East Cornwall Co-ordinator and Howard Hoptrough be the West Cornwall Co-ordinator. After some discussion during which it was pointed out, several times, that Area cannot appoint co-ordinators, the following was passed:- "The minutes be amended to say Cornwall had reported back that co-ordinators had been appointed for East and West Cornwall and noting that Area cannot appoint County Co-ordinators".

Reports were given about all the new Local Parties. Howard Hoptrough said the first page of the October SW Area Newsletter was inaccurate as to what had happened in Cornwall. After some discussion it was agreed that the newsletter was only as accurate as the contributions sent in.

The last part of the afternoon went back to new SW Area and constitutional matters were discussed, especially the motion put forward by Derek Wall (see October Newsletter for this motion).

Copies of the minutes of the SW Area meeting on 14th October 1989 can be obtained from the minute taker, Ted Chapman, 9, Trevethan Rise, Fal-outh, Cornwall. Tel 0326-312938 or from Alan Toothill, Area Co-ordinator.



### *Letter to the Editor.*

Tregora,  
Slaughterbridge,  
Camelford.  
14th November 1989.

Dear sir,

Everyone is well aware that two people from Camelford had bone biopsies, testing for aluminium. The results proved positive and were embarrassing for South West Water.

I, myself, went into St. Georges Hospital, London on 6th August for a week to undergo the same tests. To date I have not had any results sent to my doctor in spite of my attempts to get them.

Months prior to this I had hair and nail samples taken, and I have not had these results either. Do you think that by some miracle I will receive the results after the water authority has been privatised?

Yours faithfully,  
S.L.Saunders (Mrs.)

## The Queen's Green Speech.

Barbara Bloomfield, the UK Green Party Press officer, arranged a Press Conference in London on Monday 20th November. This was to unveil the Queen's Green Speech - an outline of the legislation the Green Party would introduce to protect the environment if asked to form a government. The aim was to go beyond the empty rhetoric of the other (grey) parties and present a coherent package of measures which could be taken NOW to lessen and reverse the serious damage we are causing to our environment. Among the proposals were a gradual reduction in energy consumption to 50% of present levels, an end to all new motorway building, tax incentives to promote conservation, a new Ministry for Energy Conservation.

The speech was presented by Jean Lambert, a Green Party Speaker and our representative at the European Parliament. Jean Lambert says "The Green Party will be taking over government at a time of global crisis; we are confident we can meet the challenge".

## SUPPORT MINORITY LANGUAGES.

The Green Party Manifesto for a Sustainable Society (page 107, Resolution 108) states "The Green Party believes that the native minority languages of the UK must not be allowed to decline any further and that where possible we should encourage their rejuvenation". The native languages referred to are the Goidelic (or Gaelic) group of Irish, Manx and Scottish, and the Brythonic (or British) languages of Wales and Cornwall (& Brittany).

The word "British" now has other meanings, but until about 150 years ago it was used to refer to languages. For example a dictionary which would now be called "English-Welsh" would have been called "English-British".

Brittany was colonised by the emigrations from Cornwall and is the diminutive form of Britain. In Cornish it is called "Little Britain", hence the island we live on is Big (or Great) Britain.

The word Cornwall is usually explained as the "horn shaped land of Wales", the "Wal" in both Wales and Cornwall being the same. In Saxon times the venerable Bede referred to Cornwall as West Wales.

## Tiverton Green Party.

Tiverton Green Party newsletter is produced by Susan Proud (0884 821164) and they recently held their first ever AGM. Jo Clarke (0398 31981) and Mandy Powell (257324) were elected co-chairs, as is done on Green Party Council and stimulates thoughts about sharing work and making the organisation Green as well as the policies. The Press officer is Val Barbier (254639) and a list of other officers was given in their newsletter.

Mandy gave a personal insight on the Green Party Conference at Wolverhampton as very good, but it was still (as all other parties are) predominantly male, white and middle class.

Tiverton's next meeting was on 14th No-

ember and this included a discussion on the Basic Income Policy Scheme.

To quote the writer Margaret Atwood on the environment (or what keeps her awake at night) "It's change or die. If everybody's dead we won't be talking about human rights or women's rights or medical concerns or illiteracy or any of the other horrible problems that we face. So let's deal with that first. Everything that we eat, breathe, drink, wear, ultimately every thing that we come in contact with and sustains our lives stems from nature and if you obliterate nature, there goes your food base. Sorry, sorry Mrs. Thatcher".

Sharon (see contact address page) wrote that Vandana Shiva is a physicist, philosopher and feminist. She has a mind of the first order combining intellect with spirit and using science shows white, masculine science to be the linear, unthinking, unfeeling road to disaster that it surely is. Martin Hughes-Jones went to a seminar on the local economy given by officers of Mid Devon Council and was told by the Chief Executive that "an economy must either expand or go into recession".

The Conservative claim to be the real party of the environment. Road building will protect the environment, Michale Portillo of the Department of Transport said to hushed MPs "because fast moving traffic doesn't emit as much dangerous gas as traffic stuck in traffic jams"!!!

Finally the Tiverton Newsletter offers SELF IMPROVEMENT WORKSHOPS including Whinge your way to Social Ostracism, Overcoming Peace of Mind, and dealing with Post Self-Realisation Depression.

## Dorset County Meeting.

Green Party branches in Dorset meet in Wareham on 28th November to discuss the splitting of the SW region. Each local party will choose which area they want to be in, and it is possible Bridport could decide to stay in the SW in view of its links with Devon.

BETH McCaffrey.

## ECOTRADE

Ecotrade which is in business to raise money for the UK Green Party has issued its first colour catalogue. It is 8 sides of A4 in a long strip. Everyone will receive a copy in the next edition of ECONews; further copies are 10 pence each. Ecotrade are now at UNIT 22, ENTERPRISE WORKSHOPS, BOWBRIDGE ROAD, NEWARK-ON-TRENT, NG24 4EQ, tel: 0636 700232.

Included in the new list are Art Papers, Solar Heating Panels (at £1850) long life electric lamps, solar powered path lights, organic emulsion paint (no environmental poisons), cycle vests, T-Shirts and posters.

Tommy Thornborrow is looking for someone in the SW to be the Ecotrade Agency. This would involve putting down £150 in cash and getting £750 worth of Ecotrade goods

cer, Irene Walters, 29, Trevemper Road, 872008; Campaigns officer, Phil Mellor, 131, Mount Wise, 873460.

The first Public Meeting will be held at the Red Lion Inn, Newquay, at 8.00pm on the 4th of December when the guest speaker will be David Oddie of Calstock Green Party. There has been an excellent response in the area to the new branch, with national membership now at thirty.

ALAN HENDERSON.

## Cornish Green Party.

A County meeting, comprising of members from many local Green Party Branches throughout Cornwall, was held at St.Pirans Church Hall, Truro, on 26th October 1989.

The meeting was called mainly to discuss the election of a County Co-ordinator, but also to get to know each other and to organise how we can work together more effectively as a group and promote the Green Party.

Up until now the task of County Co-ordinator has been carried out on an Ad Hoc basis by Howard Hoptrough in collaboration with Pete Marjoram. But the need has arisen to properly elect and decide on the functions of the County Co-ordinator, to decide how the job will be funded, its terms of office and means of election.

Duncan McCannis very kindly came down from Bath to Chair the meeting, which turned out to be a very lively and well attended (55). Sue Birley also very kindly came down to give advice and comment from her experience as County Co-ordinator for Wiltshire. After much discussion concerning the function of the job, it was decided, that due to the length (and breadth in places) of Cornwall, we needed two Co-ordinators; one for the West and one for the East. As the meeting was not called specifically to elect a Co-ordinator, Howard Hoptrough for the West and Pete Marjoram & David Oddie for the East agreed to temporarily Co-ordinate until they were able to call a meeting within their regions so that someone could be democratically elected, and terms of office, means of election and fund raising for the position could also be discussed.

Other ideas discussed were, a County Newsletter, County Speakers, and a member from each branch to be responsible for finding out about vacancies coming up on local councils, etc.. Falmouth-Camborne Branch have also organised the printing of a Cornish Green Party T-Shirt, samples of which will be brought back to the next meeting.

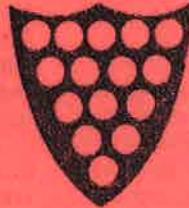
It was decided to hold a meeting four times a year, the next one to be held at Truro at St.Pirans Hall, on the 25th January 1990, and thereafter to be rotated within a Central area.

VICKY WAKEFIELD.

## Falmouth-Camborne GP.

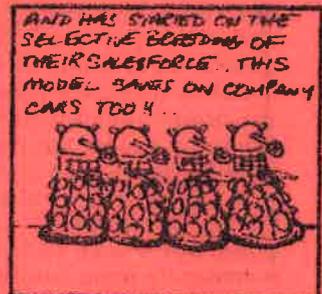
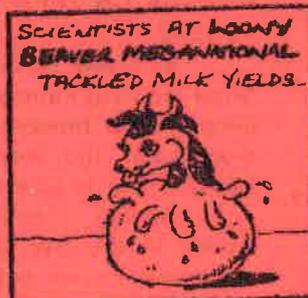
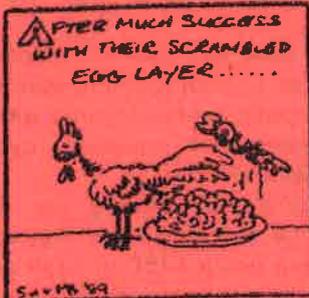
At their meeting on 13th November 1989 about twenty people listened to Councillor Frank Williamson from Okehampton. All agreed it was an excellent address and people were talking about it for days afterwards. Frank didn't think all power was in Westminster and emphasised how we can all affect big companies by choosing what we buy. He saw economic and international events keeping a basically hostile press off the Green Party, but this "honeymoon" won't last. The Green Party had come second in Devon, but the rise of the Labour Party was distracting interest away from the challenge to about 30 Tories from Devon to Wiltshire. Frank talked about the INTERCONNECTIONS of environmental matters. He had spent 16 years in Australia and seen 40,000 years of Aboriginal understanding steam rolled. Aborigines don't even have a word for land belonging to them, they see themselves as looking after a territory. On SCALE OF ENTERPRISE Frank mentioned a "lot of insane activity", for example in transport, where vegetables are sent to London for packing and then sent back again. Also he mentioned biscuits being sent long distances by lorries. These of course are just a few points picked out from his address; for the overall view why not invite him to YOUR Branch? Highly recommended.

Falmouth-Camborne will soon have available a green T-shirt with a sunflower and "Cornish Green Party" printed on them. Similar car badges will follow. For details contact Beth Mollart (0209 842889) or Paul and Terri Draper, 49, Agar Road, Illogan Highway, Redruth 216430. Paul and Terri recently made and donated a magnificent banner to the branch.



### WHAT THE EYE CAN'T SEE...

Mr. Richard Lest of the North Devon Green Party, Bideford, in a letter to the press (NDJ 5.10.89.) pointed out that in the past, visible signs of sewage debris in sea water warned bathers to keep away. But now with fine screens to sieve the raw sewage people no longer have that safeguard.



## Please do NOT shop early for Christmas. Dorset & Weymouth.

Dorchester and Weymouth GP have a Green Christmas Bazaar on Tuesday 16th December and Ann Whitfield asks people NOT to shop early for Christmas, but to contact her on 269431. On Tuesday there is a planning meeting at Annie Yates', 38, Icon Way, Dorchester 60840, near the Dinosaur Museum. The secretary is Sarah Fry, 2, Allington Terrace, Dorchester 67784. Beth cCaffrey reported in the October "Greensheet" on the September county meeting which planned to maintain the momentum gained at the Euro Elections, especially by supporting new local groups. Social gatherings and public speakers were both popular. Each local group was asked to prepare a county manifesto, then a working party will pool all the ideas to draft the final county document. Recycled paper products were advertised from Cath McMillan, 9, Little Britain, Dorchester 67994. In Weymouth there are advanced plans to publish a local green consumer guide, starting with supermarkets and their policies on South Africa. They have a tree planting scheme and are involved with recycling. All meetings, planning and discussion meetings, are open to members and non-members. The planned new constitution for Green Party local branches is being discussed.

## East Dorset.

East Dorset Newsletter is a smart, printed magazine called "Ecotype". A Christmas Bazaar was held on Saturday 25th November with stalls from numerous organisations such as FoE, Greenpeace, Traidcraft, et al. This was organised by Valerie Woodward (Wimborne 841420) who could, no doubt, give some hints to green parties in other areas.

On Saturday 9th December there is a Christmas Market, Parish Rooms, Blandford, War on want, and on Thursday December, Dorset Peace Network Christmas Social at the Cumberland Hotel, details from Jenny on 431178.

On Tuesday 19th CND have a Christmas Party in Christchurch organised by Nancy Orrell 482412. In January East Dorset Green Party are having a Wassail at the Castle Tavern, Christchurch, contact Val 841420.

Sue Thwaites has a shaft table loom for sale at £100, phone 510889.

## Devon Green Party.

Devon Green Party had a good spread in the Western Morning News on Tuesday 21st November for their Green Queen's Speech, outlining the kind of program the Green Party would present to Parliament. Roger Giles and Ms. Simmons featured in the article.

## Letter to the Editor.

Ivy Barn,  
Chyssauster Farm,  
Penzance,  
TR20 9XA.

Wednesday, October 11th 1989.

Dear Jamie McMillan,

I was surprised and disappointed to note that in the editorial of the October edition of the Green Party Southwest Newsletter, no mention was made of the Euro candidate for the Cornwall and Plymouth constituency, namely Howard Heptrough. Just about everybody else in Green Party politics in this area was mentioned, and their exploits veritably eulogised.

I would like to offer my thanks to Howard, on behalf of many of his supporters, for doing a great job for the Green Party in gaining those 24,000 votes in the Euro elections. He in fact agreed to stand with an amount of reluctance when, for personal reasons, around the time the nominations had to be in, the adopted candidate withdrew from the election. Moreover, two weeks before the elections, Howard's agent pulled out without warning.

Should we be questioning the "greenness" of the insensitivity shown by this omission of thanks to a hard working and long standing member of the Green Party?

Yours,  
Noelle Roche.

**Contributions, newsletters and personal letters for the SW Area Newsletter are always welcome, especially if you disagreed with something in a previous issue. Do you read it? Comment!**

## Newquay Green Party.

A Newquay Branch of the Cornish Green Party met on the 26th of October when a constitution was drafted and the following officers were elected: Secretary, Alan Henderson, 36 Cranfrock Street, Newquay 878734; Treasurer, Mark Carr, 16, Fernhill Road; Press Officer, Ken Watts, 8, Clevedon Road, 850450; Election offi-

## Support Greenpeace, without the pain.

On New Years Eve at the Harlyn Inn, Harlyn Bay, near Padstow, there will be a fund raising evening for Greenpeace. There will be live music by "Back to the Wall" and a disco.

The highlight of the evening will be the draw for the raffle. Prizes will include original works of art donated by major artists living in Cornwall and North Devon, and handwritten poems by Peter Redgrove, Penelope Shuttle, DM Thomas and Bob Deveraux.

The ceramicist Brian Andrew is donating a sculpture worth £400 and there are many other prizes being arranged.

All proceeds will be for Greenpeace. Tickets costing £5 and transport (buses from Lanson, enzance, etc.) details from Dave Couedard on Padstow 0841 520 665.

## LIFE, HUMANITY AND EVERYTHING!

LIFE HUMANITY AND EVERYTHING - ITS IN HUGO'S HANDS. So ran the headlines in the Sunday Times (1st October 1989).

Hugo stands for HUMAN Genome Organisation, a £2 billion world-wide research project which will be finished around the turn of the century. It is an attempt to describe the entire DNA code of Homo Sapiens. The code is expected to fill 200,000 pages of small print.

DNA makes up the genes that generate the proteins of every living cell. Prominent cancer researchers are interested in Hugo "it is clear" susceptibility is transmitted genetically from parent to child. Some disease such as cystic fibrosis and sickle cell anaemia are inherited, and many others have strong genetic elements eg. rheumatoid arthritis, heart disease, and many forms of mental illness.

Some people would approve these aims, and the possible cure for AIDS, but how about transforming agriculture "through computer designed crops, and new varieties of animals"??? Even "the fundamental life process may yield to human control". Anyone fancy being a Mermaid?

## GREEN PARTY COUNCIL Meeting 20th-22nd October 89

Having left St.David's Station in Exeter at 3.05pm on Thursday, to arrive at Hope Station seven hours later and be faced with a two and a half mile walk in the dark and in pouring rain, was not the start one would have wished for the GPC weekend. accompanied by Chris Rose, Party Election Agent - who joined the train at Bristol, I made

it to Castleton Youth Hostel just in time to check in and pop down the road to the local hostelry before closing time. In addition to the Area Rep for the new South West Area (pro tem; see elsewhere in this newsletter for further information on this subject) attending GPC for the first time, many other people were also doing so. The first day had therefore been arranged to enable us to get to know each other, to get to know how GPC functions, and also how we saw the priorities for the Green Party in the next twelve months. The discussion of GPC targets, the feasibility of achieving them, and consideration of organisation of GPC reminded me very much of Management by Objectives operated in a previous incarnation far away from the Green Party. Previous co-chairs and convenors of committee had made themselves available for this day for

debriefing and hand-over. One theme that came over quite often was that being on GPC entails a huge amount of work; whilst we had drawn up a long list of desirable activities the reality was that we would be unable to get very far down the list. Friday ended with a very pleasant couple of hours getting to know each other even better aided by Tetleys Mild.

On Saturday morning the new GPC

took over. During the twelve month period GPC meets four times; there is also a great deal of work done in a large number of committees and working groups. Our first task was to elect three co-chairs. All members of GPC are elected; a number at Conference, a number by postal ballot, and the rest as Area Representatives. All convenors of committees and the co-chairs have to be members of GPC. Last year's co-chairs were no longer eligible as all of them had left GPC.

Before moving on to an election there was considerable discussion on the method of election to be used. The previous day we had talked about the need to be better organised, and in particular that we should match skills to available jobs - "horses for courses". However, a proposal that co-chairs should be elected one at a time with this in mind was lost. I think it is not disputed that there was a far from harmonious relationship between the co-chairs elected by the STV system. The result was that Caroline Lucas became co-chair External, Nick Anderson co-chair Internal and Jo Steranka co-chair Strategy.

Further for convenors took place, mainly uncontested. More interesting was the election of additional speakers. We agreed to confirm three existing generalist speakers (Sarah Parkin, Jean Lambert and David Icke) and to add a further three. Seven contenders all spoke very well as a result of which Jane Alty, Liz Crosbie and Steve Rackett were successful.

It is intended, in addition to the Generalist Speakers, to field a "Shadow Cabinet" of fifteen

**DISTRICT COUNCILS** are now issuing **DRAFT ELECTORAL REGISTERS** to all political parties in their area. Have you got your copies, and check that all your branch members are entitled to a vote?

Corrections must be sent in by the 15th DECEMBER 1989.

Specialist Speakers. It is hoped this will include female speakers in what have traditionally been male preserves such as the Treasury. One of the difficulties will be ensuring that adequate briefing facilities are available. At present the GP has one part time Parliamentary Monitor. We talked frequently of the need for proper research facilities; as you can imagine the stumbling block is lack of finance. To hone the television skills of speakers two training workshops have been arranged for November and January (this second one in Bristol). Places may be available to local party activists. Contact me for details.

We began to plough through minutes of various committees having considered the remit of many of them. It was agreed that Campaigns Committee would produce (if possible) material suitable for local party campaigns (e.g., a local campaign kit). This committee has been working on two activities which will be pushed in the near future. A Green Program of Government (our alternative to the Queen's Speech) will be launched at a Press Conference around about 20.11.89; and a Diebacked Paper Private Bill will see the light of day soon. Details will be mailed to local parties.

The Membership Growth WG minutes prompted a discussion of political education of members and how to involve them in activities. Half the party membership have been members for less than a year and have had no "education". The possibility of a special leaflet and the designation of an Education Officer is being considered. Iain Brodie, 32, Stanley Road, Brighton, BN1 4NJ (tel 0273 692338) is co-ordinating ideas.

Much of Sunday afternoon was taken up with financial matters. GPC has to fix the GP budget for six month periods. The budget proposed was based on expenditure being met by a big increase in membership subscriptions. We felt that this could be a rather dangerous piece of accountancy - and therefore lopped some £20,000 of expenditure off the account budgets. Hopefully it will go back in to the next one.

Of course we undertook much other business not detailed here. If the report is not to be selective it would fill the whole of this newsletter and much more besides. Having given some background information about how GPC works, future reports (there should be one in each SW Newsletter) should include more details of discussion taken.

I feel it is important that Area Reps should report back to and be accountable to the membership. I would be pleased to make available minutes and reports of GPC wishing to see them.

ROGER GILES,  
SW Area Rep (Acting).

## Funny weather again!

A REPORT ON THE EDALE STRATEGY CONFERENCE 27th - 29th OCTOBER.

*"Few of us actually realise the extent of the ecological crisis that is upon us" said Bryg Oubridge in his opening address "The climatic change we're predicting is the greatest since the end of the last Ice Age," he went on, "and you have to go back 125,000 years to find even half as much warming - a time when hippopotami and lions roamed the Home Counties!" He pointed to a stream of "natural" disasters that seemed to be happening with increasing frequency world-wide, and even to recent extreme weather conditions in this country as evidence that the crisis that ecologists*

warned about twenty years ago was now upon us.

And sure enough, to add to Brigg's arguments, it poured and poured, and hurricane force winds hit the south coast. Was it coincidence, or does living in a tepee give you special powers? Whatever it was, it concentrated the minds wonderfully, and we were in just the right frame of mind to take on board David Taylor's idea of a "Crisis Community" within the Green Party alongside the Policy Community. The idea was to keep tabs on the latest expert predictions of what was happening globally in ecology and politics, and to advise the policy groups so that a coherent programme of policy can be drawn up. "At the moment we simply don't know what's going to hit us first - will it be famine, rising sea levels, resource depletion, or what?", explained David at a workshop on Global Wealth.

Another view that was widely shared was that of a two pronged attack on politics over the next ten years. The first was the straight forward electioneering, to keep up the pressure, keep shifting the agenda our way, and win some power. But the other prong, argued strongly by David Taylor, was to start building coalitions with other parties and pressure groups, and to try and to overcome traditional party loyalties which are often obstacles to real change. This second strategy could be seen as "preparing for government" in a way which was both realistic and radical - in that it is moving beyond present day politics.

Actually how to build these bridges and links was a subject of much debate in the workshops. Involving pressure groups and Green Parties across the globe in our policy making was probably the idea that had most widespread support. Yes, we must be in charge of our policy making, but that doesn't stop us seeking outside help and expertise. "Advisors advise, but conference decides", to paraphrase a one time Prime Minister.

All this can of course be done at local level - and can be started now! Talking doesn't necessarily involve dealing. And many of the national pressure groups have local branches who are often delighted to be approached by local Green Parties to talk policy or plan local joint action. And pressure groups can mean anything from CND to the NFU - don't just talk to "the Green Movement". Local parties can also twin with Greens abroad, and can also make community links with the third world.

The conference was nicely organised, in a great setting with hills and autumn colours round about, and personally I found it the most positive and energising Green Party event I have yet been to. We were kept busy in working groups more or less all of the time - and the recommendations from about 30 of these will be available from the strategy working group in due course, and will be summarised and put to conference for a decision.

In a way, it's a pity the conference didn't happen a few weeks later, because since then we have seen the end of Thatcherism, nuclear power, the Iron Curtain, NATO, the Warsaw Pact, and the EEC as we know it. On second thoughts, perhaps with the current level of global political analysis in the party, we might not have noticed any way.

We do need a million pounds before the next general election, though. But that's only 100 jumble sales every week for the next two years - if we're still all here by then.

JAMIE McMILLAN.

## NEXT ISSUE

The February issue of the SW Area Newsletter will be edited by TED CHAPMAN, 8, Trevethan Rise, Falmouth, Cornwall. 0326 312938. Please send any copy and local newsletters direct to him by 10th January 1990.

Guest editors always welcome - volunteers please contact the Area Co-ordinator, Alan Toothill, Little Snodwell, Cotleigh, Honiton, EX14 9LF. tel 0404 83302.

## AREA CONTACTS.

AREA REPRESENTATIVE ON PARTY COUNCIL (Acting): Roger Giles, 14 Winters Lane, Ottery St.Mary, Devon, EX11 1AR. Tel: 040 481 3387.

AREA CO-ORDINATOR: Alan Toothill, Little Snodwell, Cotleigh, Honiton, Devon, EX14 9LF. Tel: 040 483 302.

AREA MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY AND TREASURER: Sue Birley, Marsh Cottage, Lower Wanborough, Wiltshire, SN4 OAR. Tel: 0793 790 438.

### CORNWALL

CALSTOCK: David Oddie, Scomber, Harewood Road, Calstock. Tel: 0822 833139.

FALMOUTH-CAMBORNE: Beth Mottart, 2 Bridge Moor, Portreath, Redruth. Tel: 0209 842889.

FOWEY: Helen Grouas, 25 Daglands Rd, Fowey. Tel: 0726 83 2132.

LAUNCESTON: Tina Pentney, Hopecote, 11 St. Stephens Hill, Launceston. Tel: 0566 3162

LOSTWITHIEL: Jude Martelli, The Dower House, 22 Fore St, Lostwithiel. Tel: 0208 872035 ~~035~~

NEWQUAY: Alan Henderson, 36 Crantock St, Newquay. Tel: 0637 878734.

ST.BLAZEY: Stella Enright, 3 Luxulyan Rd, St. Blazey Gate. Tel: 0726 81 5650.

ST.IVES: Ted & Anita Rose, 12 Lafrowda Terrace, St. Just-in-Penwith. Tel: 0736 788641

TRURO: Robbie Robinson, Seal Cottage, Porthloe, Nr. Truro. Tel: 501417.

#### CORNWALL CO-ORDINATORS:

EAST CORNWALL: David Oddie, Scomber, Harwood Rd, Calstock. Tel: 0822 833139.  
Pete Marjoram, 30 Fore Street, Lostwithiel. (Tel: J. Martelli)

WEST CORNWALL: Nominations and election procedure being arranged by Howard Hopt-rough, 11 Belgravia St., Penzance. Tel: 0736 63008.

### DEVON

EAST DEVON: Anne Michel, Hawthorne House, Back Lane, Newton Poppleford, Sidmouth. Tel: 0395 68 281.

EXETER: Steve Potter, 11 Mansfield Rd, Mount Pleasant, Exeter. Tel: 0392 79666.

NORTH DARTMOOR: Chris Dent, 12 Steeferton Close, Okehampton. Tel: 0837 53774.

NORTH DEVON: Peter Christie, 30 Lime Grove, Bideford. Tel: 023 72 73577.

PLYMOUTH: Peter Boon, 29 College Ave, Mufley, Plymouth. Tel: 0752 269540

SOUTH HAMS: Helen White, Ingledene Cottage, 25 Ford, Dartmouth. (Tel: c/o Paul Wesley 0803 865 794)

TAVISTOCK: Tracey Paddon, 3 Ralph Court, Ford St., Tavistock. Tel: 617033.

TIVERTON: Sharon Mulvihill, Lower Oakford, Tiverton, EX16 9EW. Tel: 039 85 436.

TORBAY: Glenda Lowcock, 87 Chesnut St., Drive, Brixham. Tel: 08045 58853.

DEVON PRESS AGENT: Roger Giles, 14 Winters Lane, Ottery St.Mary, Devon, EX11 1AR. Tel: 040 481 3387.

DEVON CO-ORDINATOR: Alan Toothill, Little Snodwell, Cotleigh, Honiton, Devon, EX14 9LF. Tel: 040483302.

### DORSET

BRIDPORT: Audrey Urry, Brunel House, Wych Hill, Bridport, DT6 4JJ. Tel: Brid. 24279.

DORCHESTER & WEYMOUTH: Rob Cumming, 7 Monmouth Rd, Dorchester. 0305 64092

EAST DORSET: ~~Valerie Woodward, 19 St. Cathrines, Wimborne. Tel: 0202 841 420~~

NORTH DORSET: Garry Smith, 12 Kings Road, Blandford, Dorset. Tel: 0258 53217.

DORSET CO-ORDINATOR: Beth McCaffrey, 1 Derwent Rd, Weymouth. Tel: 0305 783676

### WILTSHIRE

DEVIZES: Erica Harris, 6 Eastleigh Rd, Devizes. Tel: 78145.

NORTH WILTS: Ned Barham, 11 The Common, Langley Burrell, Chippenham. 653987

SALISBURY: Barbara Hickman, 12 Kings Rd, Salisbury. SP1 3AD. Tel: 0722 333931.

SWINDON: Bill Hughes, 18 Goddard Ave, Swindon. Tel: 0793 522989.

WEST WILTS: Alan Shephard, 14 Beckford Close, Warminster. Tel: 215679.

WILTSHIRE CO-ORDINATOR: Sue Birley, Marsh Cottage, Lower Wanborough, Wiltshire, SN4 OAR. Tel: 0793 790438.

## Agriculture.

**ORGANIC MILK.** Demand for Organic Milk is outstripping supply since the launch earlier this year of the speciality milk by the dairy giant UNIGATE; the volume has been doubled in an attempt to keep customers happy. The milk sells for 40p per half litre.

**STRAW BURNING.** The National Farmers Union (NFU) put forward the concept of a straw burning licence at their meeting in Mid-October. This was in the face of a total ban called for by the National Society for Clean Air and the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution. The MAFF are also in favour of a licence.

Straw burning causes a wide variety of air pollution including acid rain and the release of greenhouse gases. It is completely banned under Soil Association Standards.

### FACTORY FARMING FACTS

(A) Beef cattle (non-organic) are fed antibiotics in their feed.

(B) BSE or Bovine Spongiform Encephalitis infects one in every thousand cows. The cause is the feed which the cows eat. It includes the ground up remains of other animals including sheep that have died with "scrapie", the sheep version of BSE. Experts on Creutzfeldt Jacob Disease say it is the human version of BSE.

(C) BST or Bovine Somatotrophin is a genetically engineered hormone that boosts milk yield. It is being tested secretly on farms in Britain and the milk sold without identification. The use of BST will eventually drive the small farms out of business. A similar produce FST (porcine Somatotrophin) may be introduced for pigs.

(D) Less than a tenth of British abattoirs have a licence to sell meat abroad. The Meat and Livestock Commission claims that the abattoirs don't want to export and never apply. The truth is, because they are mostly old, cramped and dirty they wouldn't pass EC Standards/ The only safe choices are to avoid meat or buy it from a legitimate organic producer.

PETER BARCLAY lives on a small holding near Praze-an-beeble, Cambon, Kernow. He is the Agricultural Correspondent of the "Cornish Alternative".

The Cornish Farmer & Grower magazine, published by the NFU, for September 1989 had an article on ALDRIN: "So, Friends of the Earth want to remove all the top soil in Cornwall 'contaminated' with Aldrin. That means 2,000 acres to a depth of six inches, which works out roughly to three and a half million tonnes of soil. If they could find someone to pay for it and if they could find somewhere to put it, and if they

could find "clean" soil to replace it, then perhaps we should all diversify into the contracting business. Anybody got any spare JCBs?"

On another page the magazine gave details of MAFF arrangements to dispose of Aldrin. Only chemicals declared to MAFF by 4th August 1989 are eligible; only chemicals in unopened containers will be eligible; only chemicals from participating companies will be eligible. The reimbursement is 30p per kilogram.

The ADAS "CORNWALL FARMING MENTOR" magazine (MAFF) for October 1989 gave advice from an Entomologist on Barley Yellow Dwarf Virus (BYDV) to which all cereals are susceptible. "It is essential to apply a recommended aphicide spray to all winter cereal crops..." Marketing grants are available for "companies or individuals with the necessary experience or expertise..."

More hopefully, for the planet, the West Penwith ESA was designated in 1987 and 160 farmers have voluntarily entered into 5 year agreements with MAFF. The coastal heather, enclosed farmland and the moor, together with the abundance of archaeological remains are the result of continuous farming since pre-Celtic times. The MAFF "Mentor" said "Their survival depends on the continuation of traditional farming systems".

## Wiltshire.

Wiltshire is represented in this issue by Swindon Green News sent by Bill Hughes. The leading article by Bill in the October issue was on the mounting volume of traffic in Swindon and the need for a comprehensive transport policy. There is a possibility of a new light railway for Swindon instead of dual carriageways and flyovers. Wednesday 29th November was a talk about transport with speakers from FoE and Transport 2000. Bill says that the present general election deposit is £500, but he has grave suspicions it will be raised to £1,000. The 6th Swindon Green Conference took place on Saturday 30th September in the Friends Meeting House. Speakers included Philip Greig and Helen Browning, local party members and organic growers. Also Bob Waller of Bath Green Party who was the editor of the Soil Association Journal some years back, and Kate Freeman who is a member of the Devizes and Marlborough Green Party and runs an organic shop in a converted cow shed at Etchilhampton. Swindon Green Party are involved with objections to a company treating heavy industrial waste. On Thursday 7th December they have a party at 18, Goddard Avenue, Old Town, and on Saturday 9th December a Green Fair at Christchurch Hall, Devizes

GENTLEMEN THE TIME HAS COME TO CLEAN UP OUR ACT!! NO LONGER CAN PROFIT AND EXPANSION CONTINUE AT THE EXPENSE OF THE ENVIRONMENT... AS FROM TODAY ALL OUR PAPERWORK WILL BE ON RECYCLED PAPER.



COMPANY CARS NEED TO BE FILLED WITH CARBONIC COLLECTORS OUR PRODUCTION PLANTS WILL BE POWERED BY PHOTOVOLTAIC AND BY FUTURE ASSESSING WE WILL SET OUR CUSTOMERS IN A CIRCLE AND BEHOLD WITH 10 MINUTES OF HELP (INFORM CONSULTING AND QUALITY)



"WOMEN THERE OUR RESIDENT POINT OF SIGHTS WOMEN FINE FEELINGS TO 300 WORLD LEADER ALSO HAVE THREE HOURS FROM NORTH WESTERN MARKETS?"



CARBON-COATED BEANSPEAUT ANYBODY??



Road, Old Town and this is the party's main fund raising event of the year.

## "The Green Year"

"The Green Year" is a book published by Richard Branson's Virgin organisation at £9.95. It was the idea of Michael Charters of Bidford and ten contributors come from North Devon, including Peter Christie the Euro candidate. The forward is by David Bellamy. The book helps people to live in a greener way. It tells you how to build a solar heating system, how to avoid forest products, and much more.

## East Devon Green Party.

East Devon Green Party intend to select a candidate for Honiton for the General Election by next spring as their contribution to a "full slate" in Devon. They are also looking for candidates for the May 1991 council elections. Their November meeting was a talk by Lynne Wetenhall, FoE, on water. Alan Toothill reported that the proposed new reservoir would result in the shutdown of existing small facilities - to be sold off or developed.

On 14th December the East Devon Green Party will be discussing where it should be going in the 1990's. Pat circulated a questionnaire in reparation for this. The meeting will be followed by a Christmas social. A Hundred Club is being launched to raise £100 a month from 100 people. Celia Craven is looking for more people to make up the hundred, tel: 812835.

There is concern about a huge shopping development which would mean a loss of trade for many smaller businesses in East Devon, a big increase in traffic on the A30, and loss of recreational facilities. Mike and Viv Rosser are co-ordinating objections to the scheme. Exmouth 267885.

The campaign NOT to buy Nestle products is being supported.

On Thursday 7th December there is an East Devon GP meeting at MacKarness Hall, High Street, Honiton at 7.45pm. The chairpeople are Phil Foggitt, 9, Sandhill Street, Ottery St. Mary, 815191, and Viv Rosser, 17, Garratt Close, Exmouth, 267885.

The newsletter is edited by Martin Stoolman, type set by Rose Prince, and distributed by Rachel Coward.

## Launceston Green Party.

The recently formed Launceston Green Party held a public meeting on Thursday 9th November with David Oddie from Calstock as speaker. About 50 people attended the meeting, which took place at the Stable Bar, White Horse Inn. After David had finished speaking, questions were asked by members of the audience on subjects as diverse as the Poll Tax, funding for small schools (I think the questioner was under the impression that the Green Party had some money!), property speculators (people from "up country" forcing up the price of houses in Cornwall), non-political Green groups, the balance of payments, the leadership of the Green Party (should we have a figure-head?), the strength of the party in Cornwall and the lack of public knowledge regarding the

party's policies, with the need for a higher profile.

Launceston branch made a loss despite plant and vegetable sales, a raffle and a whip round, and only one local membership form was taken. Consequently our profile cannot be raised - in fact we have had to reduce our expenditure on advertising, at least for the foreseeable future.

A constitution has been drawn up by our Treasurer (so that we can get our £50 starter) and was the most important item on the agenda of the meeting at 11, St. Stephens Hill, Launceston, on Tuesday 21st November.

After that, on Saturday 3rd December, come "an evening with the Green Party" with live folk music, bar and free food, at the Stable Bar, White Horse Inn, Launceston, starting at .00pm. Tickets from Tina Pentney (Launceston 3162) or Vivien Pomfrey (Pipers Pool 86835).

VIVIEN POMFREY, Press officer, Launceston Green Party, tel: (office hours) Launceston 2251, (eves/weekends) Pipers Pool 86835.

## Local Party Support.

The Management Committee (of Green Party Council) have identified Local Party support as the number one priority in the coming year. May Molleno has been asked by ManCom to look at the idea of building up a national team of Local Party Support Workers. So far 13 people have volunteered to be LPSWs. The job description is "To act as a catalyst for the dissemination and sharing of practice, knowledge and experience relating to the activity area included as part of their job title between local Green Parties". Other responsibilities include "To establish strong links between the UK Green Party and local Green Parties. To establish personal links with local party officers and to give attention to their needs and wants. To advise Management Committee and the Green Party Council as to priorities in Local Party Support".

The views of individuals are requested, and also LPs are asked to discuss it and send in their views to May Molleno, 19, Barnard Road, London, who can also be contacted at the Balham office on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, or to Duncan McCanlis, Flat 1, 15, Station Road, Lower Weston Road, Bath, BA1 3DY, tel: 0225 428650. Green Party HQ is at 10, Station Parade, Balham High Road, London, SW12 9AZ, tel: 01 673 0045.

### WITCHES STONE.

The town of Forres in Northern Scotland lies below Cluny Hill and is probably best known as the home of the Findhorn Foundation. In the main street there is a stone with a plaque on top inscribed:-

#### WITCHES STONE.

From Cluny Hill Witches were rolled in stout Barrels through which Spikes were driven. Where the Barrels stopped they were burned with their mangled contents. This stone marks the site of one such burning.

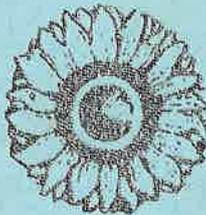
Does anyone know of any similar sites in the SW where local councils have erected, or permitted such plaques?

## GREENLINES No. 48.

The November 1989 issue of the North Devon Green Party newsletter marked the TENTH ANNIVERSARY of the North Devon Green Party. They first contested an election in 1979, but it was not until 1983 that Peter Hames and Peter Christie were elected to Braunton and Bideford councils respectively, and Annie Bainbridge was returned unopposed to S.Nolton council. Peter Christie became Mayor of Bideford - Britain's first Green Mayor - an event marked by a vegetarian inaugural banquet.

In May 1985 eight greens were arrested after handing out leaflets at the launch of a nuclear waste carrier from Appledor. The police later admitted wrongful arrest and settled out of court with a monetary payment.

In 1987 Catherine Simmons convincingly beat a Labour candidate to be the Local Parties first District Councillor.



## WORKSHOPS

At the Devon Green Party meeting at Sticklepath on 4th November, Exeter Green Party undertook to organise a series of training workshops. The thinking was that the Green Party has a majority of members who have been in the Party for less than a year - a large number of people to become involved and make a contribution, but perhaps unsure how to do so; also that there are a number of local GPs in Devon who have not been in existence for very long and could benefit from some of the expertise (?) accumulated by such as Exeter GP who have been active for more than 10 years.

On Saturday 27th January 1990 at a venue to be decided, Exeter GP will be running workshops on FUNDRAISING, MEDIA MANIPULATION, CAMPAIGNING, CONTESTING ELECTIONS. They will be quite comprehensive, for instance I envisage that the media workshop will start by examining the need for and role of a local Press officer and will work right through to conducting actual radio interviews (hopefully with a real live radio journalist).

The intention was that this would primarily be aimed at newer Green Party branches in Devon, but we would of course be delighted to help anyone else in the area, who thinks they could benefit from developing their skills. Offers of assistance would of course be appreciated. It would be helpful to know details of who is likely to attend if you have any ideas which you would like incorporated into any of the sessions, or indeed for a different subject, please let Roger Giles know as soon as possible.

ROGER GILES, 14, Winters Lane, Ottery St.Mary, Devon, EX11 1AR, tel: 040481 3387.

## WHY I WANT TO BE SOUTH WEST AREA REP BY ROGER GILES.

At the South West Area meeting in Bristol on 14th October I was elected Area Rep pro tem. I hope you will vote for me to continue in the post after you have read the following notes.

**BIOGRAPHY.** Green Party life member. First involvement in 1979 General Election campaign. Past experience includes Exeter Eco Secretary 4 years; Exeter Eco Election Agent; candidate in Exeter City Council and Devon County Council elections. Press officer for Devon Euro candidate Peter Christie in 1984 and 1989; organized successful Nuclear Free Exeter campaign 1982/83 which saw a 10,000 signature petition (the largest ever in Exeter either before or since) presented to Exeter City Council. Currently Exeter Green Party Press officer.

Between 1985 and 1988 I was rather inactive in GP due to running a vegetarian/ whole-food restaurant single handed. Aged 42; hospital administrator for 16 years; vegetarian for 8 years. Devon AAA Marathon Championship runner-up 1986; third place 1989.

The sheer volume of work to be undertaken by GPC was rather off putting on my first attendance. However, I do think that I can cope with a very heavy work load, and make a useful contribution to the Green Party nationally. Having been to a Media Committee meeting I am quite excited at the prospect of being very involved in its work for the next twelve months.

I see the role of Area Rep - in addition to a contribution to the work of GPC - as being the means of communication between local members and parties and the Green Party nationally. Reflecting local views and taking up local concerns as well as reporting back from GPC, I agree with the view that the Area Rep should be accountable to local members; to this end I propose to write a report for each Area Newsletter. I would also be pleased to give more detailed information to those requesting it. I am politically ambitious and would like very much to win a seat on Exeter City Council in the near future. I believe that being on Party Council will enhance my campaigning skills and will thus benefit the Green Party locally in the long term.

It is my view that The Green Party must campaign harder and more effectively in the future, and must endeavour to achieve a higher profile. The days have gone when we could get by with inefficiency, lack of commitment and political naivety. Our relative success on 15th June will make it harder for us in future as our political opponents will seek to put us down, and certain sections of the media attempt to rubbish us. I am prepared to step up my efforts on behalf of the Green Party; I hope you will give me your support to do so.

