



green party
Southwest Area
NEWSLETTER



FEBRUARY 1990

"VICTIMS OF OUR OWN SUCCESS"

REPORT OF GREEN PARTY COUNCIL (GPC) MEETING, BRISTOL, 20th - 21st JANUARY 1990.

By the time this newsletter falls on your doormat you may well have become aware that the question which exercised GPC's minds for much of the 20th and 21st of January was MONEY (or more precisely the lack of it).

Depending on various people's interpretation of the situation the Green Party is in financial difficulties or in a financial crisis. The problem began to appear at the time of the Euro elections last June. A "Go for Broke" policy was taken and it appears to have been successful in terms of votes collected; but also appears to have become a correct prophesy in terms of a financial prediction. Something of the order of £40,000 was overspent around the time of the election, or soon after. A lot of people would probably think that a correct decision was taken, but it is the case that the party's finances have not recovered.

I am afraid that I have little understanding of budgets and finances, but I gather that we are in a cash flow problem at the moment. The Euro overspend has not been corrected, and the Party is in a continually worsening situation. Effectively we are the victims of our own success. The Party is at present trying to service a membership of 18,000 people (the current figure) on the subscriptions of 8,000 (the membership before June 1989). The amount of literature produced and sent out, the number of speaker requests, and all the other aspects of running a political party have doubled or trebled because of our 2.3 million votes - yet income has not increased to keep pace with expenditure. It is hoped that the situation will improve when all the new members - or most of them - renew their subscriptions. Meanwhile the Green Party has gone into the red for the first time ever. GPC instituted cuts across the board in an attempt to hold the overdraft to £30,000; even at that level - and there was doubt that it could be kept under £30,000 - interest charges are at £500 a month or so.

GPC anguished over the financial situation. To close the party down in terms of activity for a few months was rejected as a sensible option. It would have set us back a long way, and could even have begun a long spiral down to oblivion. The SW Area Rep took the view that whilst we should try to cut unnecessary expenditure, and

defer other expenses, we should take a bit of a gamble. If we do good things, the money should come in, and anyway, I am of the opinion that the general membership has not been told of the problem.

So its down to YOU (and me) to help out as soon as possible. If all 2.3 million voters who supported us on 15th June gave a pound each we could have no problems other than how to use it properly. Unlike the Labour and Conservative parties who receive millions of pounds from the unions and big business each year the Green Party is virtually totally dependent on the financial support of its members. Please send what you can to our Treasurer before you do anything else. If we can build a sound financial platform now, we can make another advance forward before the next General Election by increasing the pitifully small number of Green Party paid staff and fielding a candidate in all 650 constituencies.

GPC ratified the appointment of a Fundraiser and heard details of his plans to put the party on an even keel by raising large sums of money. Unfortunately any income from this appointment will be some time off - at present he is a net cost to the Green Party.

Long time SW members may remember DAVID TAYLOR as long ago as the late 1970's; I believe he was the very first "South West Region Organiser."

Although cuts were introduced in many areas I was pleased that the Party Political Broadcast, for which we have pressed so hard for so long, was confirmed as essential. To drop that would in my opinion have been the supreme political folly, yet some members of GPC were in favour of such a course. The same team who made the memorable Euro Election film have agreed to do so for the PPB. It has been costed at around £10,000.

More bad news followed concerning EcoTrade which appeared to have been experiencing the same problems as the Green Party - growing too fast. Sales increased, staff were taken on and extra outlets opened and costs increased. GPC recommended that the London and Halifax operations should be closed.

There was encouraging news of the Mid-Staffordshire campaign. Of course nobody



(Continued from front page)

knows when the election to replace the late sitting Tory MP will be held, but 3rd May (the day for the District Council elections) seems to me to be a good bet. Campaigning is under way already. Hereford and Worcester has supplied 400 stakes to take A3 posters, and a quality short-list of Janet Afly, Nick Appiston-Fox and Robert Saunders produced. In the best Green traditions all three have agreed to work hard as a team who ever is selected. Media Committee is putting a full-time Press Officer in to the constituency - at the request of the local party - for the period of the election. The local party is very keen to receive offers of help from the rest of the county. Are you able to assist? If you are one of the 50% or so of the party who have not experienced GP election campaigning here is the ideal opportunity for you to develop your skills. See details elsewhere in this newsletter. I should point out that help is needed NOW - it is not just during the three week or so campaign. Although that will of course be a crucial period.

Media committee has been working on expanding the list of generalist speakers (Sara Parkin and David Icke in particular are getting so many requests that they are seriously stressed), and also on drawing up a list of specialist speakers. These people will have expertise in their chosen subject, and (as I see it) will be involved closely with their various working groups. Whilst the specialist speakers are basically just a conduit between the party and the outside world, although they will be expert in that role, the generalists will possibly develop into a sort of Shadow Cabinet. Obviously we therefore have to democratise the selection process. I would be grateful for suggestions about how this should be done. Finally on the subject of Media Committee it has a new Convenor: me. I see my objective as raising the national media profile of the Green Party. Very much easier to say than do. With one Press Officer (FoE I believe has twenty!) and little money it has an almost impossible task, but we must try.

ROGER GILES.

A PRESSING PROBLEM

Barbara Bloomfield, the Green Party Press Officer, recently pointed out that the government has 2,000 Press Officers compared to the Green Party's one. Even with volunteer help just servicing the flood of telephone calls is a problem. The basic problem is of course money.

The "Sunday Times" on 4th February 1990 reported that Parliament's running cost had risen in the last five years from £56 million to £100 million and by next year will be approaching £120 million. More revealing though is the fact that the CABINET OFFICE which serves the Prime Minister and cabinet business, will cost TWICE as much as Parliament this year!

PUTTING ON ECOLOGY

As performed and written by Brig Oubridge at the last Conference, Wolverhampton 1. To the tune of "Putting on the style".

CHORUS

Putting on ecology,
Putting on the Green,
That's how politicians,
Now all want to be seen,
But we will not be hoodwinked,
We know just what it means,
'Cos we know they're only,
Artificial Greens.



(1) Maggie and the Tories,
Say they've seen the light,
The land of hope and glory,
Is gonna be alright,
With lots of nuclear power,
Because it's safe and clean:
Pigs can fly, the earth is flat,
And Maggie Thatcher's Green.

(2) Nicholas Ridley tried to say,
The Greens did not exist,
But nobody believed him,
'Cos they know he's round the twist,
He was flogging off the water,
To keep it nice and clean (PPPPPP)
But Maggie had to seek him,
'Cos he wasn't very Green.

(3) Dr. David Owen,
He went off on his own,
He wouldn't join the Democrats,
So now he's all alone,
His party fell to pieces,
It all happened very quick -
The only reason he looks green,
Is 'cos he feels so sick.

(4) There used to be two Davids,
But now there's none at all,
There's only Paddy Actionman,
Whose party's rather small,
They sit there with their tridents,
Pretending to be Greens,
We don't believe a word of it -
Tell that to the marines!!



(5) Kinnoch and his cronies,
Said they were anti-nuke,
They're such a bunch of phonies,
That they make us want to puke,
They're keeping nuclear weapons,
In their policy review,
They used to be a little Green,
But now they're turning blue.



(6) Now there is just one party,
That's right for me and you,
No artificial colours,
It's true Green through and through,
There isn't any other that,
Could ever be the same,
This party's Green by nature,
'Cos it's also Green by name.

TSW POLITICAL ADVISORY BOARD

Following the Exeter debate between the Greens and the Tories on January 24th, I have been asked by Chris Rogers, Political Editor of TSW, to represent the Green Party on TSW's political advisory board. I still don't know the exact brief of this board but Mike Sheering has been on it before, so it must be important. I believe it's function is to monitor and comment on the political content of TSW programming, looking out for bias or misrepresentation. As I can't watch everything on TV, much as I would like to, can I call on all Green Party members in the South West to contact me if they have seen anything which deserves comment - either praise or criticism - on a TSW programme. My home phone number is 0392-79666, 11, Mansfield Road, Exeter, EX4 6NF, Devon, England.

STEVE POTTER.

NEWQUAY GREEN PARTY

Newquay Green Party met on Monday 5th February. As Alan Henderson is having 7 weeks holiday in Barbados (!) the Branch Press Officer, Ken Watts, 8 Clevedon Road, 0637 850450, is also temporarily the contact. Gerry and Irene Walters are looking after electoral matters, and Gerry is also involved with fund raising. The meeting decided to put about 50% of their effort into local campaigns, and about 50% into getting someone elected to the Newquay Parish Council. Phil Mellor is in charge of campaigns and has been investigating how Restormel District Council works.

They plan to have a public meeting every quarter and hope to have Councillor Frank Williamson down from Okehampton. They have invested in a Gestetner duplicator and wish to thank Falmouth-Cambren for help with this equipment.

WEST WILTSHIRE GREEN PARTY

West Wiltshire Green Party are making their official launch with a talk by SARA PARKIN at Trowbridge Civic Hall on Friday 16th February 1990. Tickets at £1.50 from Trowbridge 0225 763207, Bradford Spice of Life 02216 4351, Melksham 0225 707024 or the Membership Secretary and Treasurer Alan & Biddy Shephard, 14 Beckford Close, Warminster 0985 215679. The local party contact is Ruthie Alexander, 16 Polebarn Road, Trowbridge, Wills.

THE POLL TAX

A Scottish anti-Poll Tax leaflet of last year predicted that in the run up to local elections in 1990 the Tories would try and put the blame for poll tax on "extravagant local authorities". The education cuts which are likely to flow from the implementation of the Poll Tax were mentioned in the "Observer" of 12th November.

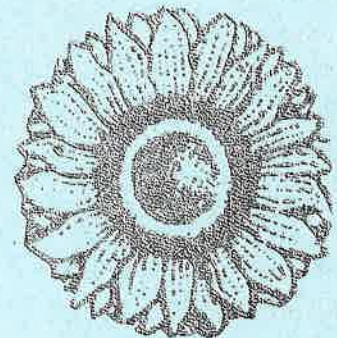
The " Scotsman " of 14th November reported that the cases of more than 17,000 people in the Grampian area had been put in the hands of Sherriff's Officers. Grampians policy prefers stopping wages or bank accounts, rather than sale of goods for Poll Tax arrears. Their Poll Tax arrears are about 10% higher than Rate arrears of the previous year.

In Devon Sir Peter Emery, Tory MP urged the county council to "axe jobs to cut poll tax" (WMN 5th February 1990). Mrs Thatcher would of course like to abolish county councils altogether and hand "planning" over to entrepreneurs. In Cornwall a Tory MP had to agree that Victorian outside toilets in Schools needed replacing, but still managed to hint darkly that the County Council was wasting money and had "overspent". Schools will also be hard hit by having to pay the "business rate" out of their own budgets.

In Strathclyde officials are finding it difficult to keep up with the system as there are 44,000 changes to the register every month.

**The Ecology
Building Society**

18 STATION ROAD
CROSS HILLS
Nr. KEIGHLEY
WEST YORKSHIRE
ENGLAND
0535 35933



ORGANIC FARMING

Organic farming land in Britain increased by 50% last year to 25,000 acres. The Soil Association have called on the Government to provide more support for Organic Farmers - even some Advisors would help. Information about Soil Association meetings can be obtained from Anna Wheeler, Cambrose Farm, Redruth 890378.

CAMBORNE-FALMOUTH GREEN PARTY CANDIDATE SELECTED

Camborne-Falmouth (Kammbron-Aberfal) Green Party have selected their PPC (Prospective Parliamentary Candidate). The procedure was perhaps longer than it will be in future because a procedure first had to be decided.

Kevin Saunders of Troon (Trewoen) near Camborne (Kammbron) was selected in a final ballot between himself and RON (Re-Open Nominations). The result was as follows.

KEVIN SAUNDERS 16
R.O.N. 0

Kevin said "I was brushing up on the details of our manifesto, but now I've been told I've got it all wrong, all I have to do is run a mile in three and a half minutes, so I've swapped my manifesto for a pair of spikes."

ROGER GILES ELECTED

Roger Giles has been confirmed as the SW Area Representative. The votes received were:-

ROGER GILES 108
R.O.N. 7

4 ballot papers were received after the closing date and not counted.

Congratulations then to Roger on his election to the job, and thanks to all those who took the trouble to return their ballot papers. Thanks too, to Ann Michel of East Devon GP for helping check the result.

ALAN TOOTHILL

TIVERTON CONSTITUENCY SELECTION OF PPC

With the sitting Tory retiring before the next general election, the Tiverton seat should be an interesting one for us to contest, and we shall, of course, be fielding a candidate.

Are YOU interested?

The procedure for selecting a Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for the Tiverton constituency is now beginning. The issue is complicated by the fact that the area covered extends all around Exeter and members could belong to Exeter or East Devon local parties as well as Tiverton LP. The process includes necessarily by GP consti-

SITUATIONS VACANT

The Mid-Staffs parliamentary by-election will be the first election since last June to draw the full glare of the national media. The Green Party MUST do well or our opponents and political commentators will prepare our political obituary. If you can help in any way please contact:

Graham Redshaw 0689 586423
John Legrys 0530 813484
Helen Antcomb 0635 253079

Pay is NIL, Rewards in terms of satisfaction are IMMENSE.

MORE SITUATIONS VACANT

For reasons of illness (terminal) Torrridge District Council lost 3 of its' members in one week recently. If you wish to work on an efficient by-election campaign but are unable to travel as far as Mid-Staffs perhaps the delights of West/North Devon appeal to you. North Devon Green Party is already planning its campaign in Langtree/ Holsworthy/ Bideford South. For local class on-the-job training please contact Judith or Peter Christie 0237 473577.

What better publicity for your GP branch than to see three Greens elected to Torrridge District Council?



The last three issues of this newsletter have been produced by members in West Cornwall. Could another group possibly give us a break and produce the next one.

the constituency, and they should all receive by mid-March a mailing from Sharon Mulvihill or Pat Stoolman giving details of the election timetable, etc.. If you live in the Tiverton constituency and don't receive a copy, give Sharon or Pat a ring - Sharon's number is 03985 436, Pat's 0382 66783.

Details in brief - the closing date for nominations will be 31st March, and an initial meeting to consider the nominations will be held on April 2nd. A postal ballot will be held by June 1st.

ANY Green Party member may apply for nomination, so anyone interested should contact Pat in the first instance for more information.



FOE RIVERWATCH

Did you know that as far as Farm Pollution is concerned, you live in the dirtiest part of the country? The South West Water region produced 45% of the total number of serious pollution incidents in the country (1988 figures). Of these, only 6% resulted in the Water Authority prosecuting the farmer, compared with a national average of 23%. The total number of reported pollution incidents that year was 836... Friends of the Earth estimates excess of her words the was around 6% cution rate was 1%



give a figure in 13,000!!!! In of- detection rate and the prose- a fraction of

The major sources of farm pollution are dairy and beef farms. The main causes being silage liquor, which is up to 200 times more polluting than untreated sewage (in terms of oxygen demand), Slurry which is up to 80 times more polluting than untreated sewage, and dirty yard washings. The risk from silage liquor is greatest during the summer months from June to September. The risk from slurry and dirty yard washings is greatest during the winter when the cattle are kept indoors, January to March, is NOW!!!!

This pollution is having a devastating effect on our rivers and streams. The bacteria in the slurry feeds on the organic matter and undergoes rapid growth when it meets a supply of oxygen. Unfortunately this oxygen which is provided by a clean stream or river is also needed for the survival of the fish and invertebrate populations. Massive one off pollution incidents, such as may be caused by the bursting of an earth banked slurry lagoon may wipe out all life in a 1km stretch of a river. Less dramatic but equally worrying are the low level continuous pollutions which usually go unobserved. Such long term pollution results in a change in the type of invertebrates to be found, favouring those that are tolerant of pollution. This has a knock-on effect through the food chain and upsets the whole ecological balance of a stream.

FOE RIVERWATCH is campaigning to clean up this unacceptable abuse of our rivers and streams. It is a huge task....there

are around 20,000 farms in region, and to ensure success we need all the help we can get. YOU can help by keeping your eyes open when you go walking in the countryside. Look out for signs of pollution such as; dead fish, excessive sedimentation, sewage fungus (an off-white feathery looking growth clinging to underwater plants and stones), or discoloured smelly water. If you do see any of these signs please report them to FoE Riverwatch giving very clearly the location (an O.S. grid reference if possible).

You can contact us on; EXETER (0392) 423308 or PENZANCE (0736) 66434.

NORTH DEVON GREEN PARTY

North Devon Green Party Newsletter for January-February 1990 records that since their last issue Hinkley has come to a halt, the entire map of Eastern Europe has changed, and the so-called "Green Bill" has been published. They have a new treasurer in Ricky Knight, 1 Taw View Terrace, Bishops Tawton (0271 71732) and their AGM is to be on Friday 23rd February at Thymes Wholefood Cafe, Bideford. Bideford group meet regularly at 30 Lime Grove, Bideford and they hope to establish another Barnstable group soon organised by

Use an yeth Kernewek dhywgh?
 Dyski kewsel Kernewek?
 Ough hwi gwer? Usi?
 Dhe my skrifa hwi, mar pleg.
 Kevin Saunders,
 11 Stret Nowygh, (11 New Street)
 Trewoen, (Treon)
 Kambhronn, (Camborne)
 Kernow, (Cornwall).
 (If you speak Cornish or are learning and are green please write to me!)

Colin Jacob.

Members are reminded they can politely reason with the Japanese Ambassador to Britain about whaling on 01 465 6500 or 01 465 6661. Anne Napier writes about the Tropical Rain Forests and Us in Devon. A reprint from the Guardian of 3rd January says "much of the 1989 revolution began as a green protest in citizens movements. In Armenia this was nationalism in revolt against murderous pollution imposed from the outside for the benefit of strangers. The green strand is still prominent in East Germany, Hungary, Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia. To prevent the worst from happening, Central European Greens will try to resist any new economic superstate which would be an extension, or a replica, of the Single European Market that Western reens already dread. Only if economic power is decentralised can people organise their communities according to local needs and resources, treating the environment not

as an externality, but as the basis the basis around which life is arranged."

The North Devon Green Party criticised the £250,000 golden handshake given to Lord Marshall on his retirement from the headship of the CEGS. They said (WMN 4.12.89) the gift was grossly inflated for someone who had consistently given wrong advice on nuclear power. Peter Christie said "his blinkered and multi-headed approach to energy production in Britain has led us down the path of massive waste and pollution".

"We have recently seen the abandonment of one of Lord Marshall's worst excesses - Hinkley C. This error alone has cost the country some £20 million and is going to leave the south-west in a grave position regarding future power supplies".

WILTSHIRE GREEN PARTIES

Devizes and Marlborough had a very successful Green Gig in December, organised by the local FoE. They now have about 30 members.

North Wiltshire have 23 members and are reforming.

Salisbury had 30 people at their AGM and the new co-ordinator is Rose Perry, 88 Woodside Road, Salisbury 20 15 1. They have selected their Prospective Parliamentary Candidate.

Swindon had a whole day on organic farming and a well attended meeting on Transport in November. Swindon is the only party to have District Council elections in May. Swindon Spring Green Fair is at Woollen Bassett Memorial Hall on Saturday 7th April 1990.

West Wiltshire meet monthly and have about 35 members.

Sue Birley points out that she has been County Coordinator for 2 years and feels someone else should have a chance. She says "it doesn't involve much - newsletters quarterly or so, arranging county meetings and liaison with the local parties".

NEW NOTIONS OF PEACE

A Conference on Saturday 21st April 1990 at Tavistock Town Hall, Devon.

Four major speakers including representatives from the Soviet and West German Embassies, plus workshops, will explore ideas on Peace, Disarmament and Trust Building in the New Year. There will be a cabaret in the evening. Further info from Ann Gude, 6 Deer Park Close, Tavistock Devon. 0822 616304.

REGISTRATION OF ELECTORS 1990 REGISTER.

The Electoral Registration Officers in each District Council area will be publishing the 1990 Registers on 14th February. Each political party is entitled to request up to four votes for their use.

APRIL SW AREA NEWSLETTER

Three issues of the SW Area Newsletter have now been edited and generally coordinated by Ted Chapman. The layout has been done by Kevin Saunders on a Desk Top Publisher, but before the previous editor used a word processor. About a dozen people have helped with collating, enveloping, electronic stencils, etc. Could someone, perhaps in Devon, now do an edition and give us a give? Please.

PLYMOUTH GREEN PARTY

Don Allen sent details of the latest Green activities in Plymouth. Green Party members have entered the "Nudge a Nut, Save a Forest" competition organised by Bill Dearing, Plymouth FoE Rain Forest Co-ordinator. They aim to raise £25,000 to endow 1,000 acres of rain forest in Belize. The event on April Fools Day on Plymouth Hoe includes nudging a nut with your eye. Plymouth Sound and the Theatre Royal are giving support. Sponsor Forms, Tee shirts, green noses, etc. are available from Bill Dearing at 60 Sunnybanks, Hatt, Saltash, Cornwall. 0752 847522.

The Pedestrian Association were in Plymouth on 8th February to launch a new branch, and Don Allen says there was excellent support with over 10,000 anti-pavement parking stickers sent out.

DIG (Dump Info Group) issue newsletters and leaflets about the plans to dump nuclear waste from Royal Navy Submarines. Maps, photos and plans (including one in the Daily Mirror on 15th January) show the proposed dump is right alongside the main railway line to Cornwall - literally feet from the tracks. The Mirror article said there are seventeen schools within a mile of the dump. Also very close are two naval armaments depots, fuelling lines for warships and a helicopter landing pad. Through DIG pressure the MoD had to admit that their "threat to 2,500 jobs" was incorrect and misleading, and that unions were not supporting the MoD - in fact they were in opposition.

The Tory MP in charge is Michael Neubert MP, at the MoD in Whitehall. A special pack, full of misinformation and lies, is available from HM Government Free of charge.

EXETER GREEN PARTY

Exeter Green Party are so active that they need all the space in this newsletter! Their own professionally produced newsletter is called "Exeter Green News" and costs 30p. The January issue reveals that the Government has announced funding of £53 million for a Northern by-pass to Exeter, some 7 miles long. The route of the road is "shrouded in secrecy" and the feasibility study done for the DoT is a "secret document" (Not for you old boy of course).

The Exeter GP Jumble Sale made a record profit of £220 for the Party.

A Green now been for-University and 60 members.

Steve Pot-meeting to ter called a discuss the GP national conference and says "while no one wants to pander to the media, it seems a waste to spend so much time on boring introspective and procedural motions when we could be getting our radical policies across to the public free of charge".



Party has med at the already has

ter called a discuss the

DECADE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

DEAR EDITOR, I am writing to you to bring to the attention of your readers the important opportunity for peace and civilisation offered by the United Nations "Decade of International Law" (1990 - 1999).

The decade of international law was brought into being on November 17th 1989 when the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution (Agenda item 149, which had been initiated by the nations of the Movement of Non-aligned States).

We witness continually in the news media the dreadful results of the absence of enforced international law. The United States tries to justify action such as its recent "invasion" of the "sovereign" territory of Panama by saying it is acting as an international policeman or "peace-keeper", when in fact it is a vigilante acting in its own interests and those of unrestrained capitalism.

We see the disasters that result from the absence of enforced international environmental protection laws, and we see the unnecessary deaths of millions of children as a result of what the bankers call the "debt crisis".

The world urgently needs a real international police force to enforce real international laws in order to end the rule of military might in international affairs, to enforce environmental protection laws and a Human

Rights Bill, and to restrict the actions of international loan sharks.

Pessimists and megalomaniac national leaders will no doubt wish to persuade us that we can never hope to succeed in creating a civilised world in which international anarchy is replaced by international law. Those in power in such places as South Africa, Iran, the UK, and China may refuse to accept the jurisdiction of international law.

However, it is hoped that the civilised nations of the world will seize this opportunity to replace the present ineffective UN with a democratically elected assembly to have jurisdiction over the rest of the planet and refuse any contacts or trade with "outlaw" lands. It is very unlikely that the unfortunate peoples of those lands would not quickly take actions to resolve the situation.

Whilst certain problems will need a global solution, we do not of course need a world government with unrestricted powers over every aspect of our lives. It will be necessary for a binding federal constitution to be drawn up to strictly limit the powers of a world assembly.

I joined the Green Party because I read in the 1987 manifesto that its members sought complete and universal military disarmament and a strengthened United Nations, with a peace-keeping force force trained in non-violent methods. If we wish to gain any sort of credibility with the general public we should eagerly embrace the "Decade of International Law" to prove that there is an alternative to the nuclear deterrent that we find acceptable.

I think the Green Party should mount a campaign of publicity and discussion of the "Decade of International Law".

Yours faithfully, David H. French, 116 Roman Road, Corfe Mullen, Dorset.

ECONOMICS POLICY DEVELOPMENT BULLETIN

Janet Alty has circulated details of the last in the present series of Economic Policy Development Conferences. It will be held in May, possibly in Edinburgh, and its theme is NATURE'S ECONOMY. Anyone wishing to submit their ideas should send the paper in by 14th April 1990.

Henry Dudley (Palmouth 40246) attended the Economics Conference in Cambridge in January and could no doubt give you some background information on the series.

Janet Alty also says she has some copies of the MFSS on 5 and half inch floppy

diskette in MS DOS format. She lives at 18 Lillington Road, Leamington Spa, 0926 427773.

THE FALMOUTH TO A30 DUAL CARRIAGEWAY

Green Party members in Truro and Falmouth-Camborne have been active in opposing plans to build a new dual carriageway from Falmouth to the A30. Beth Moffatt, Kevin Saunders and John Carley have been particularly involved. Several possible routes have been drawn on maps by a firm of consultants employed by the County Highways Department, and a number of action groups have sprung up in the villages likely to be affected by the various routes.

COSERG, the village action groups, Friends of the Earth and the Green Parties have met together to form a common front which basically is opposed to all new dual carriageways. The County Planning Department are not happy with the plans and so far no one in Falmouth seems to support them or proclaim the need for a dual carriageway, although some feel that a modest widening of the existing Falmouth-Redruth road to allow some passing places would not be a bad idea. However, it would seem that government grants favour new roads cross virgin land.

Tory Developers favour a route via Truro because it would mean building several more miles of dual carriageway on the far side of Truro to reach the A30 and a new by-pass for Truro would create a new city boundary and hence much land for "development plots". It could also mean a 80 foot high 400 metre long concrete bridge over the river passing over the cricket ground and skirting Boscawen Park. On the Falmouth side the routes read like a catalogue of disasters as they pass through beauty spots, ancient woodlands, wetlands, areas of outstanding natural beauty, areas of special scientific interest, etc.

The Truro Transportation Action Group have issued a magnificent cartoon showing a Great White Elephant crossing the Bridge Too Far, accompanied by a new Esso garage and signs of "Plots for sale", "Site for Development", etc.

STOP PRESS. On February the 7th, the Transportation Committee, perhaps due to overwhelming pressure, rejected almost unanimously all the proposed routes. The next decision will be made by the full council on February 27th.

GREEN CO2

According to Maggie nuclear power is ecological. Exeter Green Party says that each Magnox Reactor releases about two tonnes of radioactive CO2 into the atmosphere every day.

MAGGIE THE GREEN GODDESS

The first debate between Tories and Greens attracted a packed audience in Exeter on 25th January. Exeter Conservative Association proposed that "this house has confidence in the Government's policies on the environment and congratulates the Prime Minister on her initiatives internationally". The chairperson was Chris Rogers, TSW's political editor. The Green Party was represented by Dr. Richard Lawson and Steve Potter. Dr. Lawson said that all but a few Conservative's environmentally friendly policies and decisions were ones that the Greens had come up with first. The Green Party wanted action not words. A Tory spokesperson said "Mrs. Thatcher was, and is, the world leader in environmental issues" and claimed the conservatives "are the worlds leading environmental party".

Stephen Potter accused Mrs. Thatcher of ignoring the warnings, doing too little too late and of now trying to take all the glory. Mr. Potter continued "They say they are concerned about the ozone layer and then reject international calls for a ban on Methyl chloroform" and "they say they want to save the Rainforests and then give \$100 million to the Tropical Forestry Action Plan which is turning the forest into commercial plantations". The Conservatives said their measures on pollution included "tougher controls on waste than in any other country" and it "was spending billions of pounds on fighting air pollution".

DORCHESTER POWER YOUNGER

Rob Cumming reports that they have completed the process for selecting 6 candidates for the local Borough Council election in Weymouth-Portland. STV and a postal ballot was used.

On Saturday 10th March they have a Jumble Sale in the Corn Exchange, Dorchester starting at 10am. Nominations have been requested by post for Prospective Parliamentary Candidates for two constituencies - Dorset South, and Dorset West. Stickers saying "NO FREE NEWSPAPERS" have been designed and cost 20p each for the first five, and after that 10p each. They can be purchased from Barney Smith, 10 St. Georges Road, Dorchester 268816.

CAER ESK or ESK CHESTER (Exeter)

The name Exeter comes from a British word for Water (Esk, Usk, etc. as in Cumbria, Gwent, etc.) and the Roman fortress (Caer, Caister, Chester) so it is more than appropriate that Exeter Green Party have scored heavily in a recent Press battle with South-west Water. Roger Giles sent 16 pages of letters, press cuttings and press releases, and there was obviously more.

It seems to have started with a letter in the Press from Roger Giles mentioning SWW's "appalling track record", pollution incidents, Camelford, poisonous algae, dividends and taxpayers money, the right to a clean and healthy supply of drinking water, waste disposal, and Tory dogma.

A reply by SWW head of corporate affairs, Richard Furniss, was taken by Exeter GP to contain an implied threat of "legal action". Roger Giles wrote back on 4th December 1989 a five page letter with dates and details of pollution incidents and so on. Simultaneously Exeter GP issued a Press Release headed "YOU WILL NOT GAG US - GREENS TELL WATER AUTHORITY". This ran to three pages and included "Mr. Furniss is treading on dangerous ground if he seeks to interfere with our open society: we have the right to express our opinion - and editors have the right to report it. We will not be warned off".

On 6th December SWW head of corporate affairs (now called Roger Furniss) wrote to Roger Giles personally saying a reply to his detailed points would be sent and inviting Exeter Green Party officials to meet SWW officials.

Exeter GP compiled a list of queries on Algae, Disinfectants, Sea Outfalls, Sludge Disposal, Beaches, etc. for the joint meeting on 15th January 1990 and obtained further Press coverage. This meeting was attended by SWWs Roger Furniss, Bob Baty and Brian Buckley. For Exeter GP there were Stephen Potter (Secretary), Roger Giles (Press Secretary) and Phil MacNaghten (Planning Adviser). An Exeter GP Press Release on 16th January 1990 covered 3 pages and items such as who owns the shares, dumping of sewage into rivers and sea, risks to the tourist industry, planned use of disinfectants around sea outfalls, sludge disposal in the British Sea, bathing beaches, drinking water quality, lead and nitrates, the recent

change in "consents" to permit increased levels, general planning to year 2001, leakages of water (32% is lost), sale of valuable land, and the recently announced integrated pollution control in the Green Bill (only 14 staff in the Drinking Water Inspectorate to cover all the UK).

Exeter Greens thanked SWW for their time and hospitality and both sides hoped for more constructive co-operation in the future. But Exeter GP would not be deflected from criticism where it was justified.

ROGER GILES 0404 813387. PHIL MACNAGHTEN 77565. STEPHEN POTTER 78066 or Exeter GP 0392 210143.

South West Area AGM
31st March 1990
EXETER



COMHAONTAS GLAS

Sack in the Summer Roger Garland became a TD (MP) in the Irish Parliament representing Dublin South. The Exeter GP newsletter says he now receives tremendous media attention and hardly a day goes by without seeing some reaction or statement by the Green Party coming through him.

Comhaontas Glas has a "small and down at heels office in central Dublin" staffed by one American. Posters on the office wall are for the "water Boys" - no not privatisation, but a "right on band". Tim Brennan said discussions in the office were all about democracy and protecting the green ideals in this newly successful party.

Greens in Greece also got their first MP elected in November.

NON ORGANIC FARMING

Members in Cornwall will know of Gummars harvest festival sermon at Truro Cathedral which was more or less "thank God for Shell chemicals", and the ensuing letters from Beth in the local Press. John Behjeman's Harvest Hym would have been appropriate at the service:

We spray the fields and scatter
The poison on the ground
So that no wicked wild flowers
Upon our farms be found
We like whatever helps us
To line our purse with pence;
The twenty-four-hour broiler-house
And neat electric fence.....

to

SAVE THE RAINFORESTS FROM TORY DEVELOPERS

Mrs. Thatcher was applauded at the United Nations for giving £100 million to the Tropical Forestry Action Plan and this was enthusiastically reported in the Tory Press. The truth is somewhat different and Exeter Green Party formed part of a deputation to the Prime Minister at 11am on Tuesday 9th January 1990. Roger Giles and Stephen Potter of Exeter GP joined with Jonathon Porritt, David Bellamy and Sir Richard Body MP to ask the PM to withdraw the £100 million. The TFAP in fact EXTENDS forestry and would leave "ecological Disneylands" for tourists to visit - of little value to the global ecosystem. Stephen Potter also visited Malaysia and had a personal letter from the Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Bin Mahathir about the rainforests there.

Dr. Mohamad said Malaysia is only cutting down selected areas, whereas Britain has already cut down practically ALL its trees.

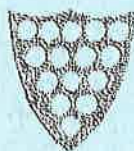
Canada exports more timber than all of Malaysia's total value of exports.

LAUNCESTON GREEN PARTY

The Launceston Green Party have been discussing a Green Exhibition that they hope will take place sometime in March. They have had some problems booking halls for a political party (other than you know who) and are considering affiliation to FoE.

They are also hoping "to attain some wisdom from an experienced alter-

native has worked and a qualified



energy engineer who worked in the third world on expert who's a well biologist."

They are consulting superstores combining information from various green publications to compose striking and informative posters for shoppers who don't find the time to wade through piles of literature researching such matters.

A "How Green is Launceston?" survey is being organised and issued to every store holder which will contain 16 questions.

Launceston Green Party would like to suggest that each of the 17,000 paid up GPC members possibly wouldn't mind paying £2 in order to clear the £30,000 debt.

BRIDPORT GREEN PARTY

Audrey Urry reported their first AGM on 9th February elected a new committee and gained a couple more members. The AGM was followed by a talk on GP Structure by Duncan McCantlis and a general discussion of policy. There are no local council elections this year so members will be gaining experience by helping out in Dorchester and Weymouth.

The branch newsletter is now going and there is to be a jumble sale on 24th February at St. Marys Church Hall. A business meeting will take place on 12th March and a members meeting on Water on 30th March. A Spring public meeting on Green Consumer-

ism is planned. One member is deeply concerned at the need for a Sun readers guide to GP policies i.e. small, simple leaflets for the General Public easier to understand than the Policy Pointers.

Bicycles cheaper than car parks.

Rather than spend money on new car parking spaces CIBA GEIGY offered their workers a choice of a new bicycle costing about £260. Over 200 employees opted for a bike and so far the company has saved £80,000. Workers now arrive in a better state of mind and body.

EAST DORSET GREEN PARTY

East Dorset has a big gap due to Valerie Woodward and Chris Jones leaving on 10th February to go and live in France. Chris Bradbury (0202 889627) said they did terrific work. Chris said they don't have a candidate for Purbeck yet.

The new contact is Sarah Deane, Old Smithy, 19 Weston Moors Road, Three Legged Cross, Wimborne 0202 823880.

THE UNION OF STUDENT GREENS

The Union of Student Greens issued its first newsletter in October, free to USG members or 15p to others. The USG was strongly supported by, and steered through GPC by Liz Crosbie, one of last years co-chairs. Membership costs £5 whether or not the student is a member of the Green Party. Copies of the newsletter "Student Green News" can be obtained from John Bishop at Green Party HQ or from c/o NPSU Student Affairs Office, Newcastle Polytechnic SU, 2 Sandyford Road, Newcastle NE1 8SB.

WORKSHOP DAY (BRIEF) REPORT

Thanks to Exeter Green Party for organising a day of workshop sessions on January 27th. With sessions available on canvassing, fundraising, elections, Green News, Planning and Media, plus television interview training and a visit to Devonair Radio. I'm sure all who were there found something of interest.

There was a useful hand-out on planning objections I can pass on to anyone who contacts me, also I have (from Ted Chapman) a couple of pages on the task of the election agent.

ALAN TOOTHILL.

SOUTH WEST AREA AGM & AREA ELECTION AGENT

The date for the South West Area AGM has been set for Saturday 31st March 1990, at an Exeter venue.

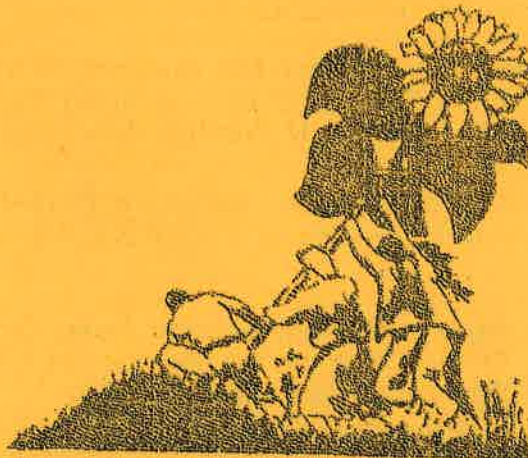
The agenda will largely depend on the progress made by Wiltshire and Dorset in deciding their future allegiances, but will include ratification of election of Roger Giles as Area Rep.

Election of other officers:-
 Area Membership Secretary/Treasurer
 Area Co-ordinator
 Area Election Agent

The election agent is a post which hasn't been filled as such previously. The main requirement is to have or gain knowledge on election rules and procedures, and to become familiar with the Area's political map. The Area Agent will then be able to advise and assist LP Agents with campaigns and act as a communication link between the local agent and national agent (Chris Rose).

Volunteers/ Nominations required! For more details please contact Alan Toothill.

If you have any items for the AGM Agenda, please also contact me as soon as possible. I will circulate an agenda through the County Co-ordinators by mid-March, together with venue details.



AREA CONTACTS.

AREA REPRESENTATIVE ON PARTY COUNCIL 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
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 788841
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, Mutley, Plymouth. Tel: 0752 269540
SOUTH HAMS: Helen White, Ingiedene 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 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: Sarah Deane, Old Smithy, 17 Weston Moors Road, Three Legged Cross
Wimborne 0202 823880
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 & MARLBOROUGH:Ray Fox,5 Walden Lodge Close, Devizes 4517.
NORTH WILTS: Ned Barham, 11 The Common, Langley Burrell, Chippenham. 653987
SALISBURY: Rose Perry, 88 Woodside Road, Salisbury 20151
SWINDON: Bill Hughes, 18 Goddard Ave, Swindon. Tel: 0793 522989.
WEST WILTS: Ruthie Alexander-Mrgan,16 Polebarn Rd,Trowbridge 763207
WILTSHIRE CO-ORDINATOR: Sue Birley, Marsh Cottage, Lower Wanborough, Wiltshire,
SN4 OAR. Tel: 0793 790438.