

econews

ECOLOGY PARTY NEWSLETTER • JULY 1984 • No.23

OUR EURO-MP!

FRANCOIS ROELENTS, who addressed the first Southport Conference in Spring of this year, has been elected to the European Parliament.

He is one of the two Green M.E.P.s from Belgium, and represents Ecolo, the Green Party of the French-speaking community.

He will also, as he promised at Southport, represent the interests of British Greens in the international forum at Strasbourg.

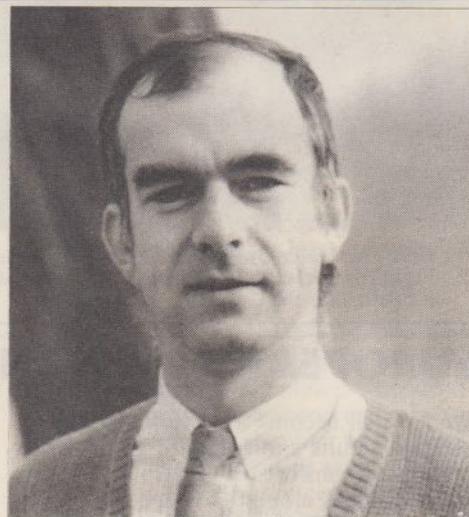
Ecolo and Agalev, the Flemish-speaking Belgian Greens, have formed a sub-grouping in the Parliament, which opened on July 24th. This is part of a larger "technical alliance" which is made

up of Greens, Radicals, Independents, and Communists in the Parliament.

Die Grunen's M.E.P.s are also members of this technical alliance, and they will represent the Belgian Greens on its Executive Committee.

The exact working relationship of the Alliance and its sub-groupings are still under discussion, and it will probably be several months before we know how it will operate. Because of the negotiations that have been taking up so much of Francois' time we have been unable to give you the full report that we had planned for this issue of Econews - it should appear in the next.

We are expecting a large delegation of European Greens from all countries to attend the first Conference of 1985 in Dover - so this should be a truly International Green Gathering.



Francois Roelents - Ecolo (Belgian Greens)

ECOLOGY PARTY STRATEGY - THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

Join this Exciting New Fundraising Venture. You can make it happen!

THREE TIMES the General Election vote in a higher proportion of the seats - that's the encouraging result of the Euro-Election, and the campaigns for this and the Local Elections showed undiminished Eco-vigour round the country.

More generally, Green politics is now part of the political mainstream. The Ecology Party itself is widely recognised and respected. Other political parties are increasingly trying on our clothes for size, in an attempt to appeal to the awakening eco-awareness of the electorate, without yet recognising either the urgency or the true nature of Eco-politics.

TO REALISE fully the potential of our distinctive position in UK politics and to take the lead in bringing the insights of the Green Movement to a wider public, our objectives now need to be twofold.

- to build up our electoral credibility by winning more votes, especially at a local level, increasing the pressure on the other parties in the process;
- to become more visible and more effective, locally and nationally, assisting and accelerating the Eco-awakening.

It's a Strategy well within our human and technical resources. We have now got the expertise, the committed activists and the administrative competence, while the computer in the Office will make us more efficient centrally, but we can't finance the Strategy out of membership subscriptions.

Which is why we are looking for 100 people to give us the funds. 100 Party members or supporters who are still earning a standard wage in the formal economy and who will guarantee the Party, by Deed of Covenant, £100 or more per year over five years. The five years is important because it will allow us to plan right through the crucial local election period up to the next General Election and beyond to the 1989 European Election, which could well be our first test under PR.



Covenanting your donation, assuming you pay income tax, is a way of stipulating how you want part of that tax spent, because we are able to reclaim the tax you have paid on the donation. In effect, the Government will add over 40p to every £1 you give the Party, so that your gift, while costing you £100 per year, say, is actually worth over £140 per year to us. It's a bonus of immense value - and there's there's no other way there's no other way that Eco will get what amounts to a Government Grant!

We're calling this scheme the 100 Club,

and we're inviting you to join. All you need to do is fill in the Banker's Order and Deed of Covenant enclosed with this Econews and send it to the Treasurer. Broadly, your money will be used to pay salaries of up to £5,000 a year for the following:

New Staff for Local Support

- Full-time Party Agent (electioneering)
- Full-time Campaigns Director (campaigning)

(there is, of course, no perception that either of these staff will necessarily be London-based. Much of their work will be face-to-face contact and experience sharing with Local Parties on the ground).

Current Staff

- Full-time Office Manager
- Full-time Press Secretary

(you may not be aware that we currently pay our full-time staff little more than £40 per week).

The advertisements for the new posts will appear as soon as the income is assured. We're fervently hoping to be able to give our AGM a special lift by announcing our target's achievement at Southport in October.

Our 100 Club will be the least exclusive club you can imagine - certainly members will get no special rights or status in the Party. But they will have the satisfaction of knowing that they are playing a vital part in the progress of Green politics in this country through the '80s. Is there a better way of spending £2 per week?

Paul Ekins, Jean Lambert, Jonathon Porritt
CO-CHAIRS, PARTY COUNCIL



Back row: Janice Owens, Peter Lang, Marilyn Smith, Jean Lambert, Jonathon Porritt
 Front row: Deborah Sutherland, Elizabeth Evelyn, Steve Dawe, Audrey Bryant, Felicity Norman
 (Christian for the Greens)

EUROPEAN ELECTION RESULTS

Constituency	Candidate	No.	%
London Central	J Porritt	5945	3.3
London West	D Sutherland	4361	2.2
London N.E.	J Lambert	4797	2.2
London North	P Lang	4682	2.6
London S. Inner	J Owens	3281	2.2
London S.W.	S Willington	3066	1.8
Mid/West Wales	Marilyn	4266	2.0
Lothians	L Hendry	2560	1.4
N. Ireland	C McGuigan	2172	PR
Devon	P Christie	6912	3.5
East Kent	S Dawe	5405	3.1
West Kent	C Bunyan	4991	2.9
East Sussex	E Evelyn	5401	3.1
West Sussex	D Aherne	3842	2.2
Hereford/Worcs.	F. Norman	8179	4.7
Manchester East	M Shipley	3158	2.1
Northants (CFG)	A Bryant	3330	2.2

EUROPEAN ELECTIONS - the gains for ECO

We have all become used to looking at election results and trying to glean what crumbs of comfort we can from the first, faltering steps along the Green road. However, the European Election results were, in those now famous words, "something completely different".

MAJORITY OF CANDIDATES WOMEN

The results were both *good* and *encouraging*. The Party's percentage vote went up almost threefold compared to the last General Election; we contested 20% of the seats and, for the first time in a major UK election a Party (the Ecology Party) had a majority of women on its final candidates list. Indeed, it was one of our women candidates (Felicity Norman) who chalked up Eco's best result - 4.7% in Hereford and Worcester. To achieve nearly 5% under our grossly undemocratic and unfair electoral system is a remarkable achievement -- remember, the German Greens (under their PR system) got 27 people elected to their national parliament with only 5.6% of the vote!

For those of you who like looking for lessons from best performances, you could do no worse than look at the May 1984 local council election results in the Hereford and Worcester area. There you will see evidence of good, sustained local Ecology Party campaigning -- surely, a lesson for us all?

MORAL VICTORY

Apart from good results, there were other, less tangible, although equally important gains for the Party arising out of the European campaign. On the question of party political broadcasting, we took the debate on and scored a notable moral victory over the Broadcasting Authorities as a result of a court case in the latter stages of the campaign. As many of you will know by now, we applied to the High Court for leave to take out a legal action against the BBC and the IBA (Independent Broadcasting Authority) for failing in their statutory duty of impartiality by refusing to grant us a Party Election Broadcast. We were gran-

ted leave but decided not to pursue the case because of the very real possibility of ending up with an enormous bill for legal fees had we lost on appeal. So, a moral victory, and one which has already made the broadcasting authorities sit up and think about the attention they give to a small, but serious political party.

"GREEN" CLAIMS OF POLITICAL MAINSTREAM

On the question of political credibility, assiduous media watchers will have noticed that the other parties now seem keener than ever to compete for the "green" vote. It is to the Ecology Party's credit that green politics is now firmly on the political agenda and our presence in the European Elections has been a big help in pushing green issues centre stage. It is now up to the Party to continue to critically examine the green claims and aspirations of those from the political mainstream.

GREEN MEPs

However, good though the UK results were for the Ecology Party, the most exciting and hopeful sign to emerge from the European Elections is the prospect of a significant grouping of green members in the new European Parliament. The Parliament should provide an excellent stage and debating ground for green ideas and, the presence of Green MEPs should help in the development of the European Greens -- a loose federation open to green parties from countries throughout Europe -- East and West, members and non-members of the EEC alike.

So, as our election candidates and their campaigners take a well-deserved break we can all look forward to the autumn in a mood of optimism and confidence. Green politics is here to stay -- it is now up to us to make it grow!

TONY JONES
 Press & Campaigns.

THE YOUNG ECOLOGISTS

THE ECOLOGY PARTY is launching a group called "The Young Ecologists" ("YES").

The Youth Campaigns Pack shows how to start a local YES group, however inexperienced you are. The leaflet includes a newsletter subscription form.

Youth Committee is also planning for speakers to be available on:

- Acid Rain*
- A Green View of Peace*
- Work*
- The Nuclear Problem*

Please write to The Young Ecologists, 36/38 Clapham Road, London SW9 0JQ, for more information, for a speaker, or for a Youth Campaigns Kit.

ANDREW HILL
 Youth Campaigner

ECO POLLS 24% IN EURO-ELECTIONS

A FANTASY? Wishful thinking? No, it actually happened -- though admittedly it wasn't the real election. **Frank Smith**, of the **East Lancashire Ecology Party**, writes:

St. Wilfred's High School in Blackburn held a mock Euro-election just before Easter. One of our members, Alison Finch, is in the Sixth Form there and, along with some friends, decided that Eco was going to be represented. Apart from ringing us up to ask if they could borrow posters, manifestoes and leaflets, they tackled the whole thing on their own.

There were the usual taunts from the Tory candidate that we didn't have anything to say because we didn't have any policies on anything! (Needless to say, he was soon put in his place). The Labour candidate was seen going around with a long face because we had lots of colourful posters going up and he hadn't got any. However . . .

Two weeks of hard campaigning resulted in Alison coming second with 24%, leaving Labour in third place with a rather embarrassing 16%.

Our congratulations to Alison for showing us how its done! Next time

LOCAL COUNCIL ELECTION RESULTS - MAY 1984

BRANCH	CANDIDATE	%	BRANCH	CANDIDATE	%	BRANCH	CANDIDATE	%
Edinburgh	(25)	(av.) 2.7	Horwich	A Ashton	3.2	Herefordshire	J McCloskey	5.2
Bristol	(23)	(av.) 2.2	Gillingham	D Harrison	1.8		R Harrington	15.0
Cambridge	G Grimley	3.5		C Bunyan	2.2		F Norman	10.0
	T Astin	3.5		C O'Connor	4.8		R King	2.7
	C Garvin	3.5		P Bunyan	2.7		D Gillett	15.1
Sunderland	N Jacques	7.5	Sittingbourne	S Taylor	6.8		G Thomson	15.9
Bedford	O Burgess	7.5	East Lancashire	F Smith	6.9		K Handy	9.9
	J Eldridge	1.2		S Moss	3.6		S Handy	24.8
	R Morrissey	2.4		G Harrison	3.0	North Staffs.	N Williams	17.8
	H Swailes	4.8		J Taylor	2.1		K Gunter	3.5
West Yorkshire	A Lawrence	2.0	Derby	E Wall	2.8		F Long	5.8
	C Nash	1.7		B Sabine	1.4		J Kent	10.7
	G Rainford	3.4	Leicester	C Davies	2.0	Stourbridge	C Davies	1.7
	J Beharrel	2.8		B Fewster	2.5	Norwich	D Wimberley	2.5
Newport	C Shakesheff	3.0		P Dickinson	2.5		B Gregg	2.6
Swansea	C Phillips	2.9	Lincoln	K Yates	—		T Carter	4.3
Southport	J Walker	5.0		C Moulton	—	Weymouth/Portland	J Hunwicks	5.9
Bootle	D Russell	1.7	Dundee	E Hood	2.3	Thamesdown	B Hughes	2.0
Exeter	P Drake	1.7		J Silvers	2.0		B Machear	2.8
	S Littlejohn	2.0	Hastings	P Bolwell	5.6			
	P Frings	11.0		P Buswell	10.0	Swale	B Stephens	2.6
	R Vaill	2.2		K Leech	12.6		P Quince	6.0
	T Brenan	3.0		D Macfarlane	7.0		L Jameson	2.8
Chorley	S Holgate	3.5	Nuneaton	J Morrissey	15.3	Faversham	C Cove	2.9
	S Crocker	3.4	Edgbaston	W Hackett	2.3	(Town Council)	P Quince	2.9
	E Colston	5.0		J Hurdley	2.2		L Jameson	3.2
	M Holgate	4.6		A Squire	1.0		B Stephens	2.2

ECO TAKES ON BROADCASTERS

THE BBC is outside the law, and putting up candidates for the European Elections does not cause "great expense".

These were two of the more surprising statements to come from counsel representing the BBC and the IBA at the High Court hearing initiated by the Ecology Party. The case was a last-ditch bid to obtain a Party Political Broadcast.

JUDICIAL REVIEW

Eco won its first skirmish — at a cost of several hundred pounds — when it applied for a Judicial Review before Mr. Justice Taylor one week before the elections.

Until then the Committee on Party Election Broadcasts had refused to give the British Greens a broadcast unless 20 candidates were fielded.

"A party only has to get £600 and 30 signatures for each candidate," said a demure Michael Block for the BBC. "It is not a great expense to put up extra candidates."

INCREDULOUS

But his comments about the BBC being "beyond the law" caused even more consternation. An incredulous Mr. Justice Taylor asked him:

"Are you saying the BBC is beyond judicial review?"

"In this regard, yes," replied Mr. Block, "There is no statute or provision in the Charter to say the BBC must act with impartiality."

The Ecology Party's counsel Andrew Collins applied for the "judicial review" on the basis that in the General Election a party contesting 7½% of the seats gained a broadcast, while for Europe it was a mammoth 25%.

UNFAIR SECRET COMMITTEE

He said the secret committee which decides on the broadcasts was "unfair" and their judgement was "one which no reasonable broadcasting authority would have reached".

The main objection from the IBA was that the court application was "tardy harassment" — that it was too late to do anything about the decision.

Mr David Kemp, for the IBA, told

the court that he was concerned that a full hearing could be set down for the following Monday.

DIRECTORS "ON HOLIDAY"

"It would be completely impossible to put our case by Monday," he complained. "All the people that we would wish to make affidavits are not here." He then explained that the Director of Television was in Italy, another director was on holiday in Scotland, with yet another in Wales.

"There was nothing to stop them thinking about this in advance," the judge told him; while Eco's counsel replied: "It should not need a gathering of those on holiday to tell us how they make their decisions. It must be recorded somewhere."

The BBC also took a dim view of the "everyone's on holiday" argument. Mr. Block said they would be able to appear the following Monday if required.

There were also outraged looks at Mr. Block of the BBC when he commented that the Committee on Broadcasts comprised "the political parties". He also claimed that to uphold Eco's application could mean other court cases "brought by other parties". On the Monday! There were, of course, no other parties contesting the elections which had been denied broadcast time.

LEAVE GRANTED

After an hour and a half of this legal bantering the judge suddenly broke in on Eco's Andrew Collins to say leave to bring the application would be granted, and the hearing would be on Monday — the IBA's holidays notwithstanding.

Eco decided, however, not to proceed further, as it was believed that even if judgement was delivered in its favour, it would be too late for the decision to take effect in the few remaining days before the election.

But informed sources reveal that the case had some practical effect; for in the ensuing few days frantic BBC film crews desperately badgered the party for events that could be filmed

PETER LANG
London North

No, he hasn't "gone over the other side!"

YOU MAY have heard by now that Jonathon Porritt, currently Co-Chair of the Party Council and the Party's best-known activists for many a year, is taking over as Director of Friends of the Earth in September. This, it seems, has caused some consternation — but fear not! Jonathon explained it to me like this:

"There's absolutely no question of giving up the Ecology Party! I'm simply going to be working for the promotion of Green ideals and Green politics in a rather different way. The Party is just one part of a potentially enormous movement — and the development of that broad movement concerns us all. As Director of FoE I hope to be able to contribute to making links between parts of the movement that up until now have remained obstinately uncoupled.

"Since I shall be speaking on behalf of FoE to the Press and Media, I obviously cannot continue to do the same job for Eco. As it happens, that's no bad thing: because they've got used to relying on me, journalists and media people have been very lazy about finding and using others within the Party who always could (and now will!) do just as good a job as I may have.

"Apart from that (and the fact that I shall not have time to be on Party Council, which has been all but a full-time job over the last couple of years!) I shall remain a totally committed and ACTIVE member of Eco. In particular, I've no doubt I shall continue to give talks on behalf of local parties with undiminished vigour and enthusiasm. They have only to ask me — especially when my book comes out earlier this year!"

I've no doubt we'll be hearing a lot more about that later!

EDITOR



CONTENT WITH COMPROMISE? By Tim Cooper

CURRENT PLANS, put forward in a recent White Paper, indicate that the Government intends to raise the deposit in Parliamentary Elections to £1,000, whilst at the same time reducing the percentage vote required to retain a deposit to 5%. Following a recent debate in the Commons some MPs suggested that there may be a compromise with the deposit being raised "only" to £750 or, possibly, £500. This issue is one of the most important which the Ecology Party has ever faced.

There can be no doubt that even if the deposit is increased some branches will be able to raise sufficient funds to put up a candidate. However, a survey carried out prior to the last General Election suggested that the number would be very few indeed. Even if branches started raising funds immediately it would be a difficult task to increase the number of our candidates in the next election. This, however, is not the sole consideration.

The Party is, as ever, short of funds and therefore short of paid workers who could do so much to help our progress to accelerate. Now we could see thousands of pounds lost in deposits – perhaps a third of a million pounds, a phenomenal sum (based on 325 candidates standing in a 1987 or 1988 election, and each obtaining under 5% of the vote and losing their £1,000 deposit – not an unreasonable hypothesis.) Such a figure would be sufficient to fund 10 full-time workers over a period of five years, each paid a realistic wage. Applying a more modest hypothesis, (200 candidates, half of whom lose a deposit of £500) the Party still stands to lose £50,000, enough to fund four extra workers for two years. The implications for the Party are then profound.

In theory the issue is one which should gain us much sympathy from the general public. The fact that the number of candidates per seat in the 1983 election actually *dropped* compared to 1979 makes nonsense of the claim that the main purpose is to keep out frivolous candidates – it is, at least in part, to keep us out. It thus follows that *the Ecology Party stands to gain most from any protest and publicity, for we are the most affected.*

CAMPAIGN FOR REAL DEMOCRACY AN UPDATE

By Mike Crowson

THE CAMPAIGN set out to "make the connections" and has been hugely successful in its own quiet way. After the Alliance, the local Ecology Parties have taken the lead role in the Campaign for Fair Votes, providing the constituency co-ordinators in several areas and high on the contact list everywhere.

Eco Representation in the European Parliament

FRANCOIS ROELENTS of the Belgian group Ecolo has been elected as an MEP. He told Conference he would represent us as well since we had a wierd electoral system which gives large parties an unfairly large share of seats.

Deposits – We Can Win

WE'VE TALKED ABOUT the proposal to raise the deposit for parliamentary elections until we're almost fed up of talking about it. We've talked to Alf Dobbs, the Opposition Home Affairs spokesperson; Professor David Butler, the Oxford academic whose idea it was to raise the deposit; Civil servants responsible for drawing up the Governments White Paper on the subject; to John Holme, the Liberal Chief Agent and to others. More than 50 Local Parties have written to their MP or the Home Secretary and at least a couple of hundred individual members have taken up the cause. Mike Crowson, Jean Lambert, Tony Jones, and Diane Burgess have talked to more Local Parties on this subject than any other single

campaign; from Portsmouth to Plymouth, Halifax to Hereford, Lincoln to Leeds, Sutton to Southend.

The signs are that opinion is changing. Brig Oubridge, in his closing speech to Conference, spoke of an increase in signatures to the nomination form as an openly discussed alternative. As he said, it is to Eco that the media turn increasingly for the authentic opinion of the non-loony fringe.

What Brig didn't mention was the lunch meeting with Junior Home Office Minister David Mellor and Alf Dobbs, Richard Holme (director of the National Committee for Electoral Reform and a leading Liberal) and three Electoral Registration Officers who represent those who administer the system. We hear that the deposit found little support or sympathy and that a compromise may be offered – increased deposits or signatures instead.

Eco cannot claim credit for the idea – Freda Chapman and Mike Crowson only borrowed it – but we can and will claim the real impact. We haven't won yet, but we might.

On the Local Democracy Front

THE CAMPAIGN again offers voters something positive. Positive policies of Devolution and the Charter for Local Government. Southport I passed resolutions which adopted the Charter and saw the setting up of a Devolution Working Party.

What then should we do? Every Party member – every single member – should have written to the Home Secretary in protest and, ideally, to their MP. But we will have to do more unless we are content to see hundreds of thousands of pounds of Party supporters' limited financial resources transferred to the Treasury.

We must be prepared to go further to win this campaign than we have in any other because of what is at stake – democracy and the future of our Party. There are perhaps just two issues where the more controversial forms of protest may pay off in our conservative land – the arms race (because it threatens survival) and attacks on democracy (because they threaten freedom).

When the legislation is drawn up and presented before Parliament – probably this autumn – I hope that all 109 candidates who stood in the last General Election, all those Party members who are considering standing in a future General Election and all who want to see party funds spent on developing Party activity – not lost in deposits – will combine in what must be a **provocative response** to the Government, to attract maximum public attention. Only if we can make a high profile protest and so get media coverage for our case and public sympathy will we win on this issue.

Contact either myself or the Party's Campaigns Director if you agree and wish to be involved. The possible compromise would not represent any kind of success.

Ecology Party politics should be about aiming for ideals, not cutting our losses.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT

THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE of Local Councillors was held at Plymouth in April, and was attended by Charles Boycott, an Ecology Party Councillor from Bishopsteignton in Devon.

Resolutions passed included one regretting the infringement of civil liberties involved in the proposed addition of fluoride to the public water supply (Staffordshire), more realistic sums to be allocated for the maintenance of rural roads, deploring the Government cuts in education; control of aerial crop spraying; opposing the abolition of the Metropolitan Councils; deploring the disappearance of rural transport services; opposing the closure of sub-post offices; supporting Citizens' Advice Bureaux, and calling for stricter control of licences for air weapons.

Charles Boycott spoke against a resolution calling for "young vandals" to be brought before Crown Courts for prosecution. He pointed out that many and more serious acts of vandalism are perpetrated by "old vandals", many of whom were present at the Conference! The resolution fell.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT SO WHAT'S IT LIKE - Being a Parish Councillor?

By Linda Whitebread

FOR JUST OVER a year now, I have been a parish councillor in Anstey, a village of 6,000 people just outside Leicester. We have 14 councillors and I came 12th out of 17 candidates, having stood as Ecology Party candidate in the election last May. My campaign consisted of a leaflet (in fact two leaflets, as I put a duplicated parish "insert" into a printed district council leaflet), and a large badge which I wore around the village for a month or so before the election stating "I am Linda Whitebread. Please vote for me on May 5th".

My impression is that this badge helped a great deal, and I certainly think that the fact that I am known in the village was at least as important in getting me elected as my Ecology Party allegiance. Other reasons may be that I am female, relatively young, and with small children; all of which characteristics were under-represented on the old council.

I was a little worried that these very differences, and the unfamiliarity, to them, of the Ecology Party, might lead the other Councillors to regard me with suspicion or even hostility. In fact nothing could be further from the truth. I have found this particular council to be friendly and welcoming on a personal level, receptive to new

ideas, and positively delighted to find an outlet for all the enthusiasm I could muster! At my very first meeting I was voted onto the Finance and Policy Committee (on which half the Council sit) and now, a year later, I find myself chairing a committee which hopes to draw up a Local Plan for the village.

The routine meetings of the Council are as follows: Full Council, Roads & Footpaths Committee, Grounds Committee and Finance and Policy Committee. All Councillors must serve on either the Roads & Footpaths or the Grounds Committee. Thus there are four meetings each month, and everyone attends two and sometimes three of these. They all start at 7.30 pm, and if the Chairman wants to go on longer than 10 pm he has to move a suspension of Standing Orders (local Eco Branches please note!) In addition there are committees consisting of Councillors plus other interested persons, such as the Best Kept Village Committee, the Anstey Scene Committee (Anstey produces an excellent community newspaper, the Anstey Scene) and my Anstey Plan Committee. These meet less frequently as a rule. Finally, there are often one-off meetings about issues that require fuller discussion than can be accommodated in the regular meetings.

Anstey Parish Council has an income of about £30,000 per year which it derives from a 4.7p rate levied on its behalf by the District Council. Two-thirds of this sum goes in wages, and I was surprised to learn that the Council fixes salary levels for both clerical and manual staff quite unconstrained by any national agreements, though there are guidelines. In practice the Finance and Policy Committee have this task, and they also allocate the £500 or so with which the Council grant-aids village organisations. The Grounds Committee is the second biggest spender, being responsible for the care and maintenance of the cemetery and recreation

grounds in the village, including play equipment, limited sports facilities and the Memorial Pavilion which serves both as sports pavilion and meeting rooms. The Roads and Footpaths Committee keep an eye on the state of repair of roads and street furniture -- we all have a "patch" which we patrol each month -- and are responsible (with other tiers of local government for street lighting and litter collection.

Not very inspiring stuff, you might think, but in fact the fascination of Parish Council work lies in the many areas where the Council has influence rather than power. For example, we see all planning applications, from home extensions to housing estates, and make comments on these to the District Council. The County Council consults over various matters, the most recent in Anstey being the Roll-Forward of the County Structure Plan. And in lobbying other bodies, be it the local Family Practitioner Committee or, through its National Association, the Government, the Parish Council has far more influence as a body than it could ever have as a collection of individuals. Not as much as we would like, of course, and it has to be said that it can also be incredibly frustrating when the authorities who actually have the power drag their heels or lose your request in a mass of red tape.

But on the whole I have found my first year as a Councillor both interesting and rewarding, and not nearly as intimidating as I'd imagined. It may be that I am fortunate with my particular Council, but I think that it is generally true that there is far more scope for initiative and enthusiasm than one might think at Parish level. We stand a better chance of being elected at Parish than at any other level of government and I strongly recommend anyone who is in the least hesitant about standing to go ahead -- you might spread some Green ideas, and you'll almost certainly enjoy it!

The Other Economic Summit by David Kembell-Cook

DURING THE REAGAN visit in June for the Economic Summit, when most activists would have wanted to be demonstrating outside the barricades around St. James', 140 assorted "Greens" from 16 countries found themselves *inside*. And a peculiar feeling it was too, to walk through the singing and chanting protestors, show our "TOES" Conference badges to the kind and courteous (*sic!*) bobbies at the barricade, and be let through to join the seven world leaders in deliberating the future of the world's economy.

What was it all about?

IN A WORD, it was about **economics**, usually a subject of supreme boredom and difficulty to most people (including Greens). President Reagan, Mrs Thatcher, Chancellor Kohl, President Mitterand and the rest were having their annual economic summit. Ours was **The Other Economic Summit**, staged at the Royal Overseas League, only 200 yards from theirs at Lancaster House.

They were meeting to talk up the idea of a "world recovery", expressing the hope that the latest surge of economic

growth in the western economies can be maintained *without* boosting inflation -- the No. 1 fear of Reagan's and Thatcher's governments. They were also trying to think up ways of dealing with the Damoclean sword of Third World debt which is hanging over the world banking system.

TOES is the first response of the Green Movement to this kind of thinking, saying that economics is far too important to be left to the economists. **TOES** challenged the whole approach of the summit and of conventional economics in general, by saying that the *real* problems we face are not monetary stability or economic stagnation, but worldwide **unemployment, the arms race, degradation of the environment and Third World poverty**. A new approach to economic policy is needed which puts these issues first, and makes the economics fit the problems, not the other way round. A **New Economics**, in fact, and this was the theme of **TOES**.

What happened?

FIRST a public rally, attended by 2-300 people, to publicise the theme of the New Economics amongst the Green Movement and demonstrate its importance. Then the Conference followed, three days of workshops discussing 20 papers (available from TOES) invited from various well-known writers, academics and

practitioners in the alternative movement.

The first day was on **Work and Unemployment**, the second on **Finance and Trade**, and the third on **Resources and Environment**. They were taken in three parallel streams, "local", "national", and "global". What impressed me most was not our ability to reach conclusions, although we did that too, but first the enormous variety in the people who came (from people running Green centres in Wales to academic economists!) and secondly the exciting sense of unity, which intensified over the three days.

Our final communique (available from the TOES office) outlines the new approaches needed at all three levels, such as writing off the Third World debt, and finding new ways to redistribute incomes, increase access to land and capital, and promote self-reliant local economies.

What next?

THE NEXT STEP is not yet clear, but it is already apparent that the New Economics has arrived on the map. The summit next year will be in Bonn, and so there could be a "**TOES II**" to coincide with it. THE SET of Conference papers costs £8. For the Communique send an SAE. (Cheques made payable to "TOES". 42 Warriner Gardens, London SW11 4DU.

RIGHT OF REPLY

Colin McGuigan responds to Mike Crowson's article, "Emerald Green" in Econews 22.

I FEEL I MUST REPLY to Mike Crowson's article "Emerald Green", published in the June Econews. The changes in Northern Ireland policy put forward for Southport I were agreed with unanimity (which included Mike) at Malvern IV, by the Northern Ireland Working Group. Mike has the right to change his mind but it disappoints me that he should choose to use Econews to attack the new policy ideas, without giving any written arguments or objections to the Working Group.

The crux of the disagreement over N.I. policy is over the present section of policy which states that if a voter does not vote for half of the options in a referendum then s/he loses his or her vote. I believe that democracy means not only the right to vote for things one does want, but also the right not to vote for things one doesn't want. The present policy violates this principle.

Such a policy would also be ineffective as an imposed "compromise" is no compr-

omise at all. An attempt would be made to enforce a constitution which the people were coerced into voting for, but the chances of this achieving consensus are miniscule. There are no short cuts to consensus in Northern Ireland. Our policy should recognise this and concentrate on ensuring a fair, democratic and decentralised system of government in Northern Ireland. As for having a joint policy with "Green Alliance", if they have the best policy then we should share it, if they haven't then we shouldn't.

What utterly bemuses me about Mike's article is the statement "there are no immediate plans, or even possibilities, to change that joint policy." Mike is a member of the Working Group and it has been open knowledge that the paper rejected for technical reasons from the agenda of Southport I will be resubmitted at Southport II. Mike also seems confused about what is the present policy and what is new. The present one seeks to "replace the military presence - true. But only by another military presence. The new policy wishes to see Northern Ireland, as soon as is practicable, policed by police.

I find objectionable the emotive phrases about "staying in the middle ground". The Party does not stay in the middle ground on

nuclear weapons or racism. What the "middle ground" is is totally subjective. I also dislike the way Mike talks of the Party moving to treat Ireland as a whole from which Britain should withdraw, if policy is changed. Mike does not support such attitudes but seems to be using them to threaten the Northern Ireland Working Group into silence.

If the Party chose to support the expulsion of Northern Ireland from the U.K. (in which case Northern Ireland would go independent), or took the further step of militarily forcing Ulster into the Irish Republic then it would be violating the principles of decentralisation and self-determination. Indeed by implicitly saying that the Irish Gaelic identity is worthy of a homeland but the Ulster Scot identity is not, they would be supporting ethnic racism. The Northern Ireland Ecology Party would probably leave *en bloc* in this eventuality.

Extra copies of the New Members' Guide which was included in Econews 22 can be obtained by sending a large SAE to The Ecology Party (NMG), 36/38 Clapham Road, London SW9 0JQ.

SIZEWELL INQUIRY Eco Case Rocks CEGB by Brig Oubridge

DURING THE WEEK OF the Euro-Elections, from June 12th to 15th, the Ecology Party stunned the Sizewell B Public Enquiry by exposing the facts about uranium mining - the part of the nuclear cycle which has received the least attention in Britain, and which the CEGB and other nuclear advocates would most like to ignore.

Eco's case was presented by Political Committee Convenor Brig Oubridge, and was preceded by evidence on Namibian uranium presented by Rob Rosenthal of CANUC (the Campaign Against the Namibian Uranium Contracts) who had worked in association with us in preparing a full week of u-mining evidence.

Rob's witnesses were Sol Piccioto, lecturer in international law at Warwick University, who explained the illegality of Britain's plunder of South African occupied Namibia, and Arthur Pickering, a former worker at Rio Tinto Zinc's Rossing mine, who also spoke on behalf of SWAPO (South West African People's Organisation).

For Eco, Brig Oubridge gave evidence on the health effects of radiation from uranium mines, and was followed by Canadian environmental scientist Miles Goldstick, who covered the environmental effects of u-mining in Canada. Having thus established a firm scientific base for our case (which was completely unshaken despite over 3 hours of cross-examination), it was the turn of the first of our indigenous peoples' representatives, John Graham, a Canadian Indian from Saskatchewan.

John ignored standard inquiry procedure by disregarding his written "Proof of Evidence" and speaking straight from the heart for 45 minutes. The effect of his testimony (which will be reproduced in part in the August issue of Green Line, and is available in full from the Inquiry) was devastating. The Inspector, Sir Frank Layfield, QC, listened intently, while the whole CEGB bench, including Britain's chief uranium buyer Michael Townsend, writhed uncomfortably in their seats.

Next day, London Eco member Angia Aldridge became the Inquiry's first female witness (after 17½ months of hearings) and told of her personal experience of uranium prospecting around her home in Co. Donegal, Eire. Her testimony later resulted in a personal letter of congratulation from former govern-

ment scientist Sir Kelvin Spencer for the way in which she had managed to express the doubts and fears of ordinary people confronted by the nuclear industry.

Eco's next two witnesses were both Australian Aboriginal women: Barbara Flick, representing the National Federation of Land Councils, and Joan Wingfield, representing the Kokatha people of South Australia. Barbara delivered another powerful speech explaining the intimate connection of Aboriginal people with their land, and the effects of white repression and mining projects on Aboriginal culture and communities. Joan spoke of the struggle of the Kokatha people to preserve their land and sacred sites from a new huge uranium and copper mine planned by a consortium which includes BP.

Finally, on Friday 15th, the Eco case was rounded off by Party Council member Linda Hendry of Edinburgh, who dashed down from her own Euro-Election campaign to give evidence on topics including the provisions of the Euratom treaty, which could compel Britain to mine uranium reserves in Orkney and Cornwall if overseas uranium supplies to Britain or other EEC countries were cut off.

Many thanks are due to all those Eco members who contributed over £800 to the costs of flying in our overseas witnesses in response to the appeal in last month's Activists Mailing. The fund is still open for any further contributions, since we hope to present another witness in September - American Indian spokeswoman Winona La Duke, who will be in Europe at that time. We must also gratefully acknowledge contributions from the Australian anti-uranium movement, Greenham Women's Peace Camp, the Methodist Church, Sizewell Action Fund, SCRAM, Green CND and various Scandinavian sources including our colleagues in the Swedish and Finnish Green Parties. Thanks are also due to all those who provided us with accommodation in Ipswich, and to those who offered accommodation elsewhere in the area which we were unable to make use of.

Any further donations should be sent to "Eco Sizewell Appeal", c/o Peter Harvey (address on Noticeboard).

Copies of our written evidence and inquiry transcripts are available FREE from Sizewell B Public Inquiry Secretariat, P O Box 333, Snape Maltings, Saxmundham, Suffolk, IP17 1SP. Relevant reference numbers are RR/P/1-3 (Namibia), JEP/01, JEP/P/1-7 and JEP/P/1 (ADD 1), and Inquiry Transcripts for Days 231 - 234.

FUNDRAISING

THE MONTHLY DRAW CLUB continues to expand. We now have around 120 members and so are paying out SIX prizes this month. The draw is still done by hand, but I am looking forward to a time soon when it will become too big for me to handle and must have to go on to the computer. To join, fill in the form in the last issue of Econews.

	WINNING NUMBERS	AMOUNT TO ECO
April	099.069.100.001.051	£104
May	075.054.034.044.064	£104
June	098.050.104.029.041	£110

* * * * *

I HAVE received a small amount of money so far from the sale of postage stamps but Rory Morrissey says that the response to him has been thin; he can handle lots more. He can supply packets of stamps for you to sell on your branch stall at local events, and is thinking of making up starter packs to sell. But he needs more stamps. See Econews 22 for all the addresses.

* * * * *

Three appeals for money have been launched this year - so far. Here is a progress report. The open-ended appeal in support of Greenpeace has resulted in nearly 300 donations totalling £2,876 - a good effort.

The Sizewell Case appeal attracted nearly 100 donations and has brought in £806 towards the £1,000 asked for - not bad.

The European Election appeal has a target of £9,700 - it has received to date £872 in about 30 donations, including one of £500, one of £100, and one of £50 - not a good effort, by most of us. I know that some people have contributed directly to their local candidates' campaigns, but we have probably over 100 slumbering Branches, or their remnants; if each one roused itself enough to have even one jumble sale, one social event, and got out and sold some raffle tickets, we would be well on the way to the target.

I know of one candidate who has a £2,000 loan to pay off, another with £1,000 . . .

The address for donations is Peter Harvey, 36 Rose Hill, Rednal, Birmingham B45 8RR.

BRIAN KINGZETT
Party Fundraiser

feedback

Write to "FEEDBACK", Econews, 33 Churchill Street, Heaton Norris, Stockport, SK4 1NB.

Dear Freda

As a recent, and as yet not very well-informed recruit to the Ecology Party, I was puzzled by Sara Parkin's article on Green Unity in the April edition of Econews in which she explained that Die Grunen had "not been able to confirm their joining the (Green) Alliance due to internal difficulties.

I now understand that this is because of disagreement over whether to accept the Dutch Green Progressive Accord into the Green Alliance and am disturbed that this was not stated clearly in Econews.

Like Paul Seedhouse (Econews 22) I begin to wonder if my expectations of Eco have been too naive, but I am certain that we will get nowhere by "playing the game their way" and that includes attempting to conceal divisions in a misguided attempt to bolster pre-election morale.

If we regard ourselves as the advocates of real democracy, freedom of information and personal responsibility, then this kind of half-truth is both unacceptable and unnecessary.

ANNE MACKINTOSH (OXFORD)

Dear Sir (*sic*)

The Other Economic Summit held in London on 6th to 10th June and organised to run parallel with the Official Summit, was a privilege and a pleasure to have attended. Its undoubted success was due to the organising skills of Paul Ekins, David Kembell-Cook and Rita Purvis.

I feel that a public expression of thanks should be recorded, both to the organisers and to the authors, from five different countries, who wrote and presented the twenty papers studied and discussed at the conference. The range and depth, together with the stimulating quality of the ideas expressed in these papers, not only broadened the view of the participants, but also helped to relieve the feeling of isolation which often besets us in the Green Movement.

It is my hope that this first such Other Summit will not be the last.

DERYCK ARTINGSTALL (STRATFORD)

Dear Freda

Martin Scholes (Econews 22) misinterprets my point; I was certainly not intending to imply any pre-industrial "golden age", but simply that, despite the far lower productivity which dependence on handwork with minimal animal or water-powered assistance then gave, the pre-industrial population, in the main, was *not worse off*.

The vast increase in productivity and output generated by the Industrial Revolution *should*, had the social/economic system been saner and more just, have made the general population *vastly better off* than before.

BRIAN LESLIE (TUNBRIDGE WELLS)

(Ed. - As expected, the letter from "Maverick" aroused a great deal of interest. Here are edited selections of members' letters)

... One point in his (her?) letter does strike a chord with me; the one relating to the "undisciplined hangers-on, faddists, extremists, etc" - Image - perhaps unfortunately - is important. Careless dress and behaviour of its members can reflect badly on the Ecology Party. Having said that, I think we must be very careful not to judge and dismiss people simply for unorthodox appearances. Neither do I think that the Ecology Party should, or even could, be more selective of its members. Better that those who consider themselves "normal" should become more visible and NOT retire to the touch-line ... Maverick's personal view is that Nature is synonymous with God, a Christian God at that. But surely the Ecology Party is at pains to promote a spiritual dimension in people's lives, which is not necessarily Christian or even God-oriented. I find the arrogance of some Christians in believing that they have the monopoly in spiritual awareness very hard to understand ...

SUE REDSHAW (HORSHAM)

feedback

... I joined the Ecology Party three months ago in the belief, supported by the 1983 Election Manifesto, that its members advocated not merely tolerance of what are in fact the natural inclinations of a sizeable minority of individuals ...

Homosexuality exists everywhere in Nature - like it or not - but man is the only creature under the sun to condemn it. Like the member Maverick I am tempted to leave the Party. And for a simple reason; my increasing fear of what is really in the minds of a number of its members. There appears to be a trend or undercurrent of opinion within Eco against some of the liberal attitudes embraced by the architects of the 1983 Manifesto. . . . It is insulting and hardly compassionate to suggest that we have respect "for the artistic achievement of so many of them" (homosexuals) while not respecting the dignity of them all as sexual human beings.

I shall have the courage to put my name to this letter, but I doubt that I shall have the greater courage to remain a member of a party which fails to understand or give complete support to homosexuals. It may, I suspect, be that a wider definition of Nature is needed than is so far understood by some of us.

WAYNE SEEX (GILLINGHAM)

... To begin with, how can it be "decentralist" to get rid of the GLC? Decentralizing surely means giving each area its own local government. The GLC is London's local government ... I'm afraid he knows little of Nature if he believes homosexuality or abortion to be unnatural. Animals will often solicit and make love to other animals of the same sex ... As for abortion, it has its equivalent in the rabbit world. If condi-

tions in a warren are poor, doe rabbits will reabsorb their embryo kittens into the womb, to prevent the birth In fact far from being "unnatural" and "sinful", homosexuality and abortion are probably Nature's way of keeping down the population If "Maverick" feels the way he does, I am surprised at his sympathy with the Greens. There is another party I feel he would be more at home in. Its members are highly disciplined, dress smartly in beautiful uniforms, hate homosexuality and are anti-abortion, believe a woman's place is rearing sons for the Fatherland. The party's name? The National Front.

ANNA SHERRING (BRIGHTON)

Here's my reply to "Maverick". Please feel free to print my name, address, inside leg measurement or anything else you like.

My interpretation of "green" is that people's activities should not harm or damage the rest of their eco-system. This means refraining from damaging, say, the ozone layer with aerosol sprays, and also means not interfering with the lives of other people without reason. Anything beyond maintaining the eco-systems' well-being, however far you wish to define that, is beyond the scope of government, and thus the Ecology Party.

As for abortion, contraception and homosexuality they are the business only of those directly involved - whether I have sex with a man or woman is none of your business; the same goes for whether or not I use contraception during heterosexual sex, and whether or not pregnancy is terminated. These things would not affect you or anyone else in any significant way, are therefore not detrimental to the eco-system and thus are of no concern to the Ecology Party. To side with the Tories, just to be different is as pointless as arguments that Eco should join the Labour Party.

PAUL ROSEN (PECKHAM)

... I feel quite overpowered by God and HIS nature and HIS law and am beginning to wonder whether WE - the HEs and the SHEs inhabit the same planet How hilarious to imagine the disciples all decked out as city slickers from the Stock Exchange commuter belt!

PAMELA ROSS (DUNDEE)

... Maverick might consider this. Perhaps in a "natural world" people would die still of cholera and such in this country, as they do still in others In more "natural" times we wandered naked scratching for berries and roots, wasting parlous thin when God's "natural law" forgot to rain or thaw for us.

As a general rule, it would be wise for us to steer well clear of arguments that have the word "natural" as a hinge-pin. They are very dangerous arguments, and throughout millenia have provided the cornerstones on which fascists, hell-fire hierarchists and genocidal opportunists have based their tenuous justifications.

CHRIS LARVER (MANCHESTER)

SPODE HOUSE STRATEGY CONFERENCE (SPODE II)

29th June - 1st July

PRESENT: Eric Wall, Julia Leyden, Bernard Little, Daniel Wimberely, Christine Bunyan, Tim Cooper, Dave Rowsell, Janice Owens, Linda Whitebread, Dave Whitebread, Junior Whitebread, Baby Whitebread, Sheila Cusden, Jo Steranka, Alun Williams, John Morrissey, Gundula Dorey, Jonathon Porritt, Sara Parkin, Elizabeth Evelyn, Paul Thatcher, Charles Boycott, Alec Ponton, Jenny Linsdell, Marilyn, Bill Shaw, Steve Lambert, Jean Lambert, Ian Lambert, Alan Francis, Steve Holgate, Diane Burgess, Freda Chapman, Heather Swailes, Peter Harvey, Justin Walker, Tony Jones, Paul Ekins, Sally Willington, Rob Gibson, Jonathan Tyler, David Aherne, Pat Hewis, Linda Hendry, Chris Sewell, Deborah Sutherland.

Delegate Conference that was called to discuss Ecology Party strategy over the next five years - culminating in the 1989 European Election Campaign.

The weekend consisted of a mixture of workshops and plenary sessions, and covered a very wide range of subjects. Many topics emerged as being particularly important to the Party in the short-term future, and these are set out in the "Ends" chart below. These are the conclusions drawn by the Conference that would have to be achieved by 1989.

The strategy itself is described by the "Means" diagram. This is the simplest way of summarising the weekend's deliberations that we could think of!

Many of the recommendations that have come from Spode II will need money, and this

highlights the need for a successful launch of the Ecology Party's new 100 Club (see front page and insert). The will to succeed is obviously there; what is now imperative is that those of us who can afford to ensure that success do everything we can to help the people who will be implementing the strategy.

All in all, Spode II seemed to most people attending to be a very worthwhile exercise, and it is hoped that the AGM at Southport in October will be able to discuss its findings in more detail. There may also be a proposal on the agenda that will attempt to formalise such gatherings, so that the future of the Ecology Party can be discussed, when necessary, in a way that will be both effective and democratic.

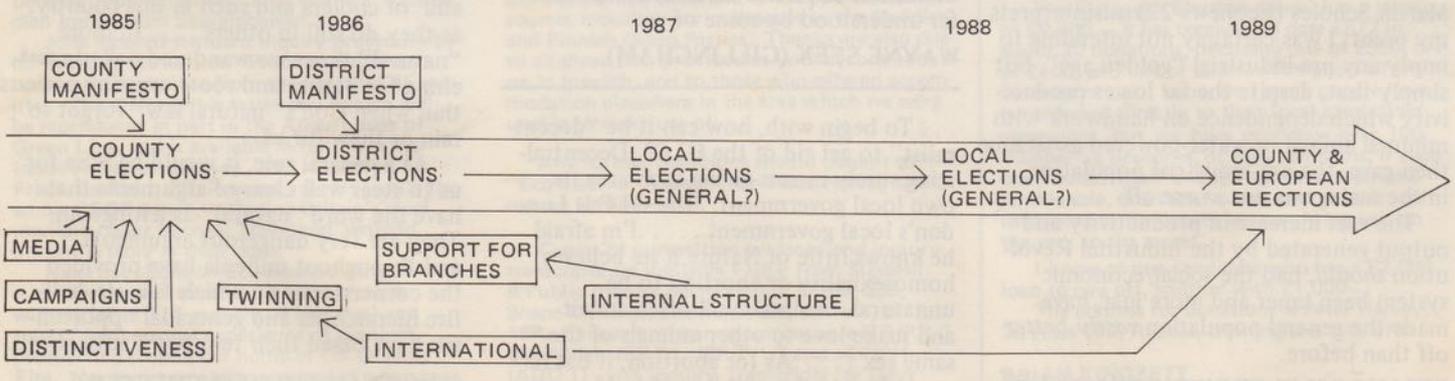
SPODE II was a special Party Council/Area

Editor

AIMS

	ELECTORAL	INTERNAL STRUCTURE	INTERNATIONAL	AWARENESS
SUCCESS	<p>Euro-MPs elected; 81 seats, Proportional Representation, 10% of vote.</p> <p>Local elections: 100 parish councillors; 1 councillor per Area at district and county level.</p> <p>National: 5% and/or saving deposits.</p> <p>Campaign for Real Democracy: Deposits, Fair Votes</p> <p>No by-elections</p> <p>Earlier selection of candidates</p>	<p>Branches: new ones, and sustainability of existing ones</p> <p>Members: more! and steady renewals.</p> <p>Flow of communications; Enthusiasm and morale; executive and strategic competence</p> <p>Fundraising: turnover (local and national)</p>	<p>Development of Euro-Greens and East European contacts</p> <p>Limiting of possible damage</p>	<p>Policy implementation, Media recognition, Public recognition, Outside approaches; separate category on opinion polls; Celebrities</p>
DISTINCTIVENESS	<p>No pacts</p> <p>Basic Green criteria</p> <p>Developing differences - policy, philosophy (spiritual, holistic, ethical)</p> <p>Identification with particular policies</p> <p>Campaigns</p>	<p>Open</p> <p>Democratic, accountable</p> <p>Flexible</p> <p>Emphasis on local parties</p>	<p>International movement</p> <p>Links and co-operation</p> <p>Internationalism</p> <p>Third World perspective</p>	<p>Campaigns</p>
IMAGE	<p>Campaigning style</p> <p>Image building and projection; Internal and external image; Honesty, sincerity</p> <p>Competence (professionalism)</p>	<p>Perception of distinctiveness</p>	<p>Cultivation of own U.K. identity</p>	<p>Local campaigns</p>
MOTIVATION	<p>Support for Agents, Local Parties, CANDIDATES, (training, media, policy backup, "dirty" book, network, selection, higher profile, debriefing) and ELECTED COUNCILLORS. Internal communications, Recognition of differences.</p>	<p>Econews and Activists Mailing, Understanding of structure, Perception of its importance, Entryism, Social activity, Support for new members</p>	<p>Communication of internationalism, Twinning</p>	

MEANS



ECOLOGY PARTY COUNCIL MEETINGS

APRIL 1984

by Wendy Morgan

There were so many items on the Agenda, I hardly know where to start. Perhaps it was not surprising, however, that we spent a lot of time discussing money, and more specifically "Fundraising", to help with which a new committee has been set up to solve all our problems! We also talked about marketing the Party.

We welcomed Linda Hendry who takes over from Tim Flynn from Scotland. Then the recent Southport Conference was discussed, and the organising Committee given a round of applause, particularly Justin Walker, for all their successful work. The food will be arranged differently at Southport II, with hopefully no loss in quality. We then discussed various themes for Southport II, including Decentralisation, Human Rights, Energy, etc.

We decided to invite Prince Charles, David Attenborough, and David Bellamy. The entertainment side of the Conference was discussed, and both the African Band and the Revue were given the thumbs up for another show in the Autumn.

We looked ahead to the Spring Liege II Conference, and the possibility of the Party organising an International meeting. Paul Ekins (Council Co-Chair) then asked for comments on the paper he had written on Party structure, and it was decided to organise membership centrally. We also agreed to the setting up of a 100 Club to raise money; details of that are on the front page of this Econews.

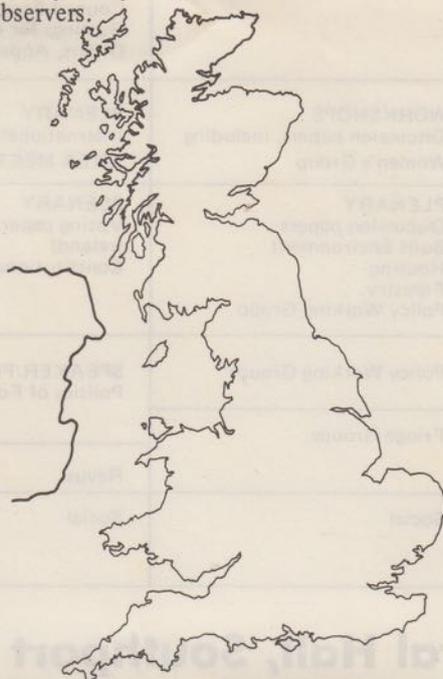
Andrew Hill, who is the recently appointed Young People's Ecology Party Co-ordinator, would like to hear from anyone interested, and needs all our help and support. It is to be a separate membership group, and should be terrific, if Andrew's enthusiasm is anything to go by!

We now have 15 Ecology Party candidates in the forthcoming European Elections, one of whom is a joint Women for Life on Earth candidate, and another a Christian and Ecology candidate. We had an interesting discussion around the idea of fielding a candidate in every constituency where the membership would dearly love to be contesting, but do not have the money. The idea is that you conduct a normal campaign, but without leaflet; get all the publicity you can, and when it comes to paying, hand over 600 signatures instead of £s, saying why. If an Election Fund is opened, there is also the chance that the money will arrive, generated by the visibility of the Party during the Campaign (and the excellent policies of course!). So, if your branch has the enthusiasm and beliefs, don't let a little thing like Money stop you contesting this Euro-election! It is NVDA!

No doubt you will have all read about the internal troubles of Die Grunen, and of the fact that we do not have a united Green Alliance for the forthcoming European Elections. However, we are all relatively young parties, and we still have high hopes for June, despite the "growing pains".

At the end of every meeting, there is always a difficult time when the money available is allocated. Sizewell was given enough to carry through Linda's and Brig's case which focusses on the uranium mining aspect of the nuclear chain. They need our support, and are very happy to talk to local groups on this subject.

We sat in a circle at this meeting, and twice each member of the Council was invited to give their views. This less competitive way of working was much appreciated by many. There were also seven observers.



July 1984

by Peter Bolwell

AT THE PARTY COUNCIL meeting on 7/8th July our thoughts were naturally on the recent European Elections results, though looking to the future rather than the past. It seems the "Green Fraction" in the European Parliament may be joined by some MEPs who are not altogether Green, including for example two Italian Communists. Party Council felt we would have had some reservations about this, since it would seriously compromise our stance as a Party which is neither left nor right-wing, but of course since we have no MEPs anyway, the question does not really arise. We are however still participating in the wider European Green Co-ordination, while our interests at Strasbourg are being looked after by the MEP elected from the Belgian party Ecolo.

Back home, a major achievement for the Ecology Party has been the presentation of our case against uranium mining at the Sizewell enquiry. Full transcripts are available on request from Sizewell, and we are investigating the possibility of publishing the evidence as a book in due course.

Talking of publications, the first two in our new series of Information Broadsheets should be available at Southport II, dealing with the National Income Scheme and with Health. More to follow!

The Peace Broadsheet should also be available at last, after several false starts. However the article aimed at bringing Christians into the peace movement has been dropped, and will not now appear. Another long-delayed project, the War Crimes Tribunal, is also in sight of fruition. It will (probably!) be held from January 3rd to 6th at the City of London University.

Eco's relations with CND have been critically examined over the last few Party Council meetings. The apparent determination of CND to ignore our presence in the peace movement has generated a lot of bad feeling and some acerbic correspondence, so that relations are a little strained. We have now submitted two motions to the CND National Conference, one requiring that CND National Council members should stand down after three years in office, and the other requiring all political parties supporting CND's aims to be given equal representation at demonstrations and rallies.

There was a very productive discussion on our attitude towards the miners' strike, and it was encouraging to see how the application of basic Ecological principles could produce a clear, common-sense position which was an alternative to both sides' entrenched attitudes. Details will be published shortly in the Activists'

Mailing, but basically we felt that our policies on pollution and fossil fuel resources required less coal to be burnt, but that closing down pits which still contain coal does not conserve resources but rather wastes them off. So the "best" pits should be mothballed while those nearest to depletion are worked out - and of course no new pits (e.g. Vale of Belvoir) should be opened. But we are not offering the coal industry a long and promising future; coal as a fuel should be tolerated only so long as it takes to develop clean and renewable energy sources. Party Council condemned the use of violence in the dispute, from whichever direction and whether in response to previous violence or not, and also rejected the manipulation of legitimate desires and loyalties for political ends.

On a more mundane level, a new company is being set up to administer the money which (we trust!) is going to come flooding in through the "100 Club". The company is a stop-gap, and is to be converted into a co-operative as soon as the formalities can be sorted out. Meanwhile, we want to encourage anyone who pays income tax to consider gifts to the Party by way of a 4-year Deed of Covenant. This increases the value of your gift at no cost to you, since we can then reclaim the tax you have already paid from the government (who would only spend it on missiles anyway.)

Finally, at Southport II we will not, as we had hoped, be able to obtain David Bellamy as a guest speaker. Instead of a speaker therefore we will have a debate on the Politics of Food, an alternative proposal for a debate on technology having been outvoted.

SOUTHPORT II - ECOLOGY PARTY CONFERENCE/AGM

4 — 7 October 1984

Timetable

	THURSDAY 4 OCTOBER	FRIDAY 5 OCTOBER	SATURDAY 6 OCTOBER	SUNDAY 7 OCTOBER
9 am to 10.30 am		Introduction Standing Orders Campaigns Reports New Members	WORKSHOPS Campaigns Relationships with other parties Skills	PLENARY Non-constitutional motions
11 am to 1 pm		GREEN ECONOMICS Open debate with speakers	AGM Reports Council Forum Hustings for Council, Standing Orders, Appeals Tribunal	STRATEGY DEBATE The next five years — workshops — plenary feedback
2 pm to 3.30 pm		WORKSHOPS Discussion papers, including Women's Group	PLENARY International Scene AREA MEETINGS	PLENARY Remaining business Closing speech
4 pm to 6 pm	Registration	PLENARY Discussion papers Built Environment Housing Forestry Policy Working Group	PLENARY Voting paper (Northern Ireland) Constitutional motions	
7 pm	Registration	Policy Working Groups	SPEAKER/PUBLIC DEBATE Politics of Food	
8.30	Reception	Fringe Groups		
9 pm			Revue	
10 pm to 12 pm	Social	Social	Social	

SOUTHPORT II - Floral Hall, Southport

WITH OUR CREDIBILITY now rising in the eyes of the public, it's important for us to get to know this new Ecology Party better. And where else more fitting than at Conference!

Conference Committee, as ever, is responsive to guidance from anyone who takes the trouble to offer it, so this year's Conference in Autumn looks set to become a "signpost" conference — pointing the way ahead — in the way you feel it ought to be done. We have designed a timetable that will make newcomers feel at home at an early stage, and we have structured a major debate on "Green Economics", featuring our own members as speakers, which will demonstrate the links between those areas we see as being of prime concern in a way even the press will be able to understand.

With our new internal electoral system — STV — more time is needed for counting, so the deadline for the return of postal ballot papers will be well in advance of the start of Conference. This means that the results can be announced at the beginning, leaving plenty of time for people to decide if they want to stand for election during Conference. Another advantage of STV is that the ballots for Party council, Standing Orders Committee and the Appeals Tribunal can be held concurrently and the respective candidates separated during counting.

It will be seen on the timetable that Policy Working Groups, Campaigns Groups and Areas all have an hour and a half to

complete their business. This should allow for meaningful discussion to take place. The Discussion Papers known about so far are those on the Built Environment, Evolution, Housing, Northern Ireland, POWG (formerly POWP), and the Women and the Ecology Party Group; doubtless there will be more.

Our broad theme for this Conference is participation. There will be plenty of opportunity for everyone to get involved in something, so come along and see if your political thinking is evolving in the same way as other members — or if they are keeping up with you!

THE TWO REVUES THAT WE HAVE HAD AT RECENT CONFERENCES HAVE BEEN SUCH SUCCESSES THAT WE ARE GOING TO HAVE ANOTHER ONE AT SOUTHPORT IN OCTOBER. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO TAKE PART — SKETCH, MUSIC, DANCING, ANYTHING AT ALL — THEN CONTACT WENDY MORGAN ON 0803 864117.

Accommodation

GUEST HOUSES and hotels in Southport vary in price from £5.50 to £8.50 per night for bed and breakfast. All are very close to the Floral Hall. A limited number of self-catering flatlets are also available from £3 to £4 per person per night. The cheapest rooms will be filled first — so don't delay. Single rooms are not numerous so it would help a lot if people are prepared to share. Floor space is limited to members' houses and the Friends Meeting House at £1 or £2 per night. Please state your choice of alternative accommodation on the booking form just in case your first choice is taken up. Camping facilities are also available at £1 per night per tent with the site only half a mile from the Conference Centre.

Reception and Food

THERE WILL probably be an informal Wine & Cheese Civic Reception on the Thursday night. Again, a lot of effort will be made to ensure that the food available is wholefood with a vegetarian option and, hopefully, organically grown.

Creche

THE CRECHE is actually in the Conference Centre and will be professionally run at no extra charge to its users.

Stalls

THERE IS again plenty of room for stalls, so if your branch wants space to sell things, or you know of any sympathetic groups that might be interested in having

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GREENS AND TRADE UNIONISTS - Is there common ground?

ONE ASPECT of Britain's political scene, and one in which many of us are involved in some way, is the Trade Union movement.

The links are there: whether through a member of the Party also being a member of a Trade Union: some who are active in both spheres; through the Campaign for Press and Broadcasting Freedom, to which the Ecology Party is affiliated and which was a TUC initiative: through the involvement of the Transport and Seamen's Unions in the work spearheaded by Greenpeace.

But there are many aspects of the Trade Union Movement which may be anathema to the Greens: its formal links with the Labour Party and its policy on reindustrialisation and unlimited economic growth: its male-dominated hierarchies: its confrontational methods: its reductionism

against our holism: its concentration on standard of living and ours on the quality of life.

On the other hand, many trade unions seem to be beginning to come to terms with the new approach to employment specifically and politics generally. Recent Union conferences agendas contained resolutions on radioactive waste, world peace, animal rights (National Association of Local Government Officers): job-sharing, paternity leave, rights of non-smokers, freedom of information (Association of Broadcasting Staff): affiliation to CND (both).

Dialogue with the unions is going on at a local level too: Mike Potter from Dover Ecology Party reports: "Dover Ecology Party has had a meeting with local representatives of the National

Farmers' Union. Subjects discussed include stubble burning, the use of chemicals in agriculture, and conservation strategy. The meeting was one of constructive dialogue and the Green Party was impressed by the willingness of the NFU to consider the points raised Ecologists and conservationists generally believe that such matters are the responsibility of the farming community, since it is they who currently have stewardship of the land."

This issue of Econews also contains an article by David Hurley of York on the Miners' Strike. We understand that Party Council discussed this topic at its July meeting and that a report will appear in a forthcoming Activists' Mailing. It will be interesting to see how the two compare.

EDITOR

THE MINER'S STRIKE by David Hurley

THE ECOLOGY PARTY seems to be keeping remarkably quiet about the miners' strike, which has now been going on for over three months. Perhaps the Party is embarrassed at the idea of entering the debate, because to take sides would be to become involved in a class conflict.

However, the 1983 election manifesto recognised that "While coal remains the backbone of our energy supply, further research should be directed towards using it more efficiently and cleanly".

The efficiency that we are talking about, and the "efficiency" that the government are trying to impose are two radically different and irreconcilable strategies.

FIRST TIME AT CONFERENCE?

IF THIS is the first time that you will be attending an Ecology Party Conference, then please let your Area Rep (name and address on Noticeboard) know so that s/he can look out for you. Sometimes at Conference it seems as though everyone knows everyone but you, and, particularly if you've gone on your own, it's easy to begin to feel lonely. Your Area Rep will be able to welcome you and introduce you to people who live near you or have the same interests as you. See you there!

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one, let me know on the booking form. There is a charge of £5 per stall - £2.50 to Eco members.

Transport

SINCE the last Conference at Southport, British Rail have centralised their discount Conference fares. If you want details about these fares, write to the following address - but give yourself plenty of time. British Rail Conference Office, Ryedale Building, P O Box 12, York, YO1 1YX.

I assume that by "efficiency" we mean that (at the production end of the industry) all pits would be worked until coal deposits were exhausted.

By comparison, this government sets *short term* economic targets, and the pits that fail to come up to these politically motivated production targets are set aside for closure - irrespective of the amount of coal reserves they still contain. Politically motivated? Of course! Tory policy represents a two-pronged attack on the coal (and transport) workers. The Tories remember the miners' victories of 1974, and have never forgiven them.

By pushing ahead with pit closures, which if successful would axe 70,000 jobs over the next few years, they hope to weaken the NUM. The second prong of their attack is to expand the capital-intensive nuclear power industry, because, as the leaked 1979 cabinet minute stated: "A nuclear programme would have the advantage of removing a substantial proportion of electricity from disruption by miners and transport workers".

Once pits have been closed they cannot be re-opened because lack of maintenance means they will collapse or become flooded. Thus, not only would the government be failing to exploit these reserves, they would actually be destroying them.

Furthermore, on top of the severe weakening of the mineworkers, the forcing through of nuclear power and the wholesale destruction of coal reserves, the damage in human terms that these Tory vandals would be inflicting on whole communities would be immense, to say the least.

These four issues are four big reasons

why the Ecology Party should throw its full support behind the miners who are struggling for their livelihood and our future. By standing shoulder to shoulder with the miners we shall be saying that we do not want to see power centralised in the hands of the state (the inevitable result of the destruction of trade unions); we do not want nuclear power; we do not want our energy resources wasted; and we do not want our communities to be destroyed. These are all important principles of the Ecology Party.

I realise that people will be concerned about issues such as picket line violence, the lack of a secret ballot and involving the Ecology Party in a "class conflict". These are problems that must not be glossed over, but I think the principles which the miners are fighting for outweigh the problems involved in offering them our full support. Supporting the principles which the striking miners represent does not mean ecologists support violence or conflict *per se*.

The violence of the miners is the violence of anger, frustration and fear in the face of a heavy-handed and violent police force. It is easy to intellectualize about non-violence, but not so easy to carry it out when weighed down with worries about a future livelihood, and when being hassled and harried by the police.

The Conservatives have not been so vociferous in their demands for a national ballot since it has become clear that the majority of miners support strike action. A poll conducted by MORI, published in the Sunday Times on 15th April showed 68% of miners in favour of strike action. A national ballot was not a constitutional requirement, and those miners directly affected by pit closures would argue that people not threatened by redundancy have no right to dictate whether or not strike action should be taken.

Concerning some people's concern about the "class" nature of the conflict I have this to say: Of course it is a class conflict. It is the conflict of ordinary working people against the vested interest of Capital, which is using and abusing them for its own gain. In a word, it is the exploited against the exploiter.

Courses for Women

THE 300 GROUP, in conjunction with the National Federation of Womens Institutes, is running two day schools, "Local Council here I Come!" and "How to be Effective in Committee Meetings", on 6th October and 3rd November. The hand-out we received doesn't actually say where they are, but we get the impression they're in London. If you're interested in attending (the fees are £8 for each) then write to Heather Mayall, NFWI, 39 Eccleston Street, London SW1. Write as well if you'd be interested in going to a course in your home town.

NOTICEBOARD

(Where a person appears more than once on Noticeboard, their address and phone number only appear in the first instance)

PLEASE NOTIFY PAUL THATCHER, OFFICE MANAGER, OF ALL CHANGES TO NOTICEBOARD

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GREEN LINE: Magazine of Green Politics; subscription 8 issues for £3.20; sample current issue 45p from 14 Alexandra Road, Oxford.

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BECON ALIGHT! The Buddhist ECOlogy Network (formerly TARA) has published its first newsletter. Anyone interested please send SAE to Martin Pitt, Little Corner, The Green, Temple Cloud, Avon BS18 for a free copy.

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