



Green-History.uk

Exhibition on the Greening of Politics from 1972

This exhibition focuses on the political aspect of the ecology-green movement in the UK which started with the publication of Blueprint for Survival by the Ecologist magazine in the January 1972 issue.

Of course, green politics didn't arise solely from one issue of a fringe magazine - the first couple of panels provide some of the background and context.

Ecology as a scientific subject can trace its roots back to the Sixteenth and Seventeenth centuries, but ecology as a system of thought, a philosophy which sees the connectedness and interdependence of all things and the need for a systems approach to understanding man's place in the world, stretches right back to the ancient Greeks.

On this first panel we list some of the Green Pioneers who set the scene. This is just a sample, there are more at www.green-history.uk ...

(Past performance of intellectual investments is not a reliable guide to their future value).

“History is a cyclic poem written by time upon the memories of man” — Percy Bysshe Shelley

“The struggle of man against power is the struggle of memory against forgetting” — Milan Kundera

“Those who cannot learn from history are doomed to repeat it.” — George Santayana

“If you don't know history, then you don't know anything. You are a leaf that doesn't know it is part of a tree.” — Michael Crichton



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Introducing the project

The Green-History Project currently has two 'Custodians'

The first aim of the project was to capture and make freely available archive material from the pre-digital era relating to the genesis and growth of the political green movement in the UK.

Memories are fading, some of the pioneers are no longer with us, attics and garages get cleared out and our shared history as greens is becoming degraded.



David Taylor and Roger C-O

If we don't preserve our history, our stories, our narratives, then our green culture is diluted, and the dominant story becomes the establishment one.

As George Orwell said: **“The most effective way to destroy people is to deny and obliterate their own understanding of their history.”**

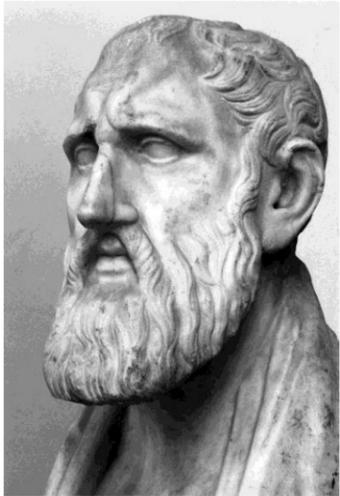
Our main work at the moment is tracking down papers from the years 1972 to 1989, scanning them and making them available on the website.

We also write and publish articles about the material and the history they represent. We are very happy to accept articles written by others – if there is an aspect of green history which you know about or interests you then please do write it down for us.

We also can mount an exhibition about some particular aspect of green history and/or provide an entertaining talk telling some of the tales we have uncovered for events, conferences and meetings.

Green Pioneers

Zeno of Citium



Born c. 334 BC. Died c.262 BC. Greece

Teacher and founder of the Stoic school of ancient Greek thought.

Stoicism held that a life of Virtue should be lived in accordance with nature. Individual souls are part of the 'world-soul' of the divine fire. The universe is cyclical and the goal of life is to live in harmony with nature.

"All things are parts of one single system, which is called Nature; the individual life is good when it is in harmony with Nature. ... Virtue consists in a will which is in agreement with Nature"

Francis of Assisi



Born c.1181. Died 1286. Italy

Taught the fundamental belief that people have a duty to protect and enjoy nature both as stewards of God's creation (standard anthropocentric Christian doctrine) but also as creatures ourselves.

Hailed by Pope John Paul II in 1979 as the patron saint of ecology.

"All things of creation are children of the Father and thus brothers of man. ... Ask the beasts and they will teach you the beauty of this earth."

William Blake



Born 1757. Died 1827. England

Included here as representative of the strong traditions of English romanticism and radicalism; an important thread in ecological thought.

Blake combined the wonder and love to be found in nature with a political radicalism that prefigures the combination of ecology and social justice in today's green ideology.

"To see the world in a grain of sand, And to see heaven in a wild flower, Hold infinity in the palm of your hands, And eternity in an hour."

John Muir



Born 1838 Scotland. Died 1914 California

Naturalist, author, environmental philosopher and mountaineer.

Advocate for wilderness protection, helped create Yosemite, Sequoia and many other parks and nature reserves.

His writings were followed and read by millions. Founded the Sierra Club in 1892.

"Keep close to Nature's heart... and break clear away, once in awhile, and climb a mountain or spend a week in the woods. Wash your spirit clean."

Green Pioneers

Savante August Arrhenius



Born 1859. Died 1927. Sweeden

Scientist, won Nobel Prize for physical chemistry.

First person to show by calculation that burning fossil fuels would cause global warming.

“Humanity stands ... before a great problem of finding new raw materials and new sources of energy that shall never become exhausted. In the meantime we must not waste what we have, but must leave as much as possible for coming generations.”

Rachel Carson



Born 1907. Died 1964. USA

Biologist and zoologist worked in marine biology and published several articles and books before becoming interested in the effects of the new pesticides, especially DDT.

After years of research and study published “Silent Spring” in 1962 – often credited as being the book which started the environmental movement.

“The more clearly we can focus our attention on the wonders and realities of the universe about us, the less taste we shall have for destruction.”

Ernst ‘Fritz’ Schumacher



Born 1911 Germany. Died 1977 UK

Worked in farming and journalism. Left Germany to escape fascism. Wrote on economics and became protégé of JM Keynes.

In 1960s developed a critique of conventional economics and co-founded the Intermediate Technology Group. Most famous for “Small Is Beautiful” published in 1973 – economics as if people mattered.

“Infinite growth of material consumption in a finite world is an impossibility. The system of nature, of which man is a part, tends to be self-balancing, self-adjusting, self-cleansing. Not so with technology.”

Lady Eve Balfour



Born 1898. Died 1990. UK

Farmer, educator, organic pioneer. Founded The Soil Association in 1946 following the publication of her book “The Living Soil” in 1943 based on her experience farming at Haughey Green.

“If fresh food is necessary to health in man and beast, then that food must be provided not only from our own soil but as near as possible to the sources of consumption.”