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## The Green Party promotes policies of ecological sustainability, fairness, equality and non-violence.

We are committed to defending the rights and welfare of all, including other species and future generations.

The Green Party is highly democratic – our policy is developed and approved by the membership – not the leaders. Every member can be heard and will be listened to.

*We are growing fast. Every day more people join us and add their voice. Will you add yours and help us work towards a better world?*

## A Green vision

**A place where people respect each other and the natural world we share. It is healthy, peaceful and richly diverse.**

Where families and communities are at the centre of national life. Each person's unique contribution is valued. Participation, justice and quality of life for all are valued over individual attainment of wealth.

**An economic system enabling people to meet their needs from the bounty of the earth, within nature's limits. Indigenous ecosystems are restored and replenished.**

Where life is a celebration of diversity and creativity. All are able to participate meaningfully in decisions that affect our own and future generations. Recognising the rights and interests of those who cannot speak for themselves.

**A tradition of ecological living, fair trade, human rights and peace.**

### GENERAL ELECTION 2015 - BRIGHTON PAVILION

## Greens and Labour neck-and-neck

**Recent polling of Brighton Pavilion reveals Caroline Lucas running is neck-and-neck with Labour.**

### Re-electing Caroline Lucas is top priority for the Party

It will be a close-run race because Labour have cynically chosen Caroline's seat as a high priority target, and will be pouring massive resources into trying to defeat the best MP in Westminster. One who works tirelessly and effectively for the people and issues that Labour was once the champion, but has largely abandoned and betrayed.

*Whether it's defending the NHS, opposing measures against the poor, vulnerable and homeless, protecting the environment, or keeping public services from privatisation, Caroline fights for what matters and gets it on the political agenda.*

*If we are keep a Green voice in parliament we'll need to match Labour's election machine - we need every single willing hand to join our campaign - right now!*

Details of different ways you can help can be found

(click) [HERE](#)

Join the campaign, then recruit a friend!

**Adam McGibbon, Campaign Manager**

email: [adam.mcgibbon@greenparty.org.uk](mailto:adam.mcgibbon@greenparty.org.uk)

**HELP KEEP A GREEN VOICE IN PARLIAMENT**

**JOIN THE GREEN PARTY**

[HERE](#)



**CAROLINE LUCAS MP**  
Standing up for what matters

## Anti-fracking activist awarded



### OBSERVER ETHICAL AWARDS 2014 Anne Power - Local Hero Award

Anne said "I was honoured to have been nominated by the Barton Moss tribe of earth protectors and delighted to have won, so that fracking and its dangers can be given more publicity. All credit goes to Barton Moss activists."

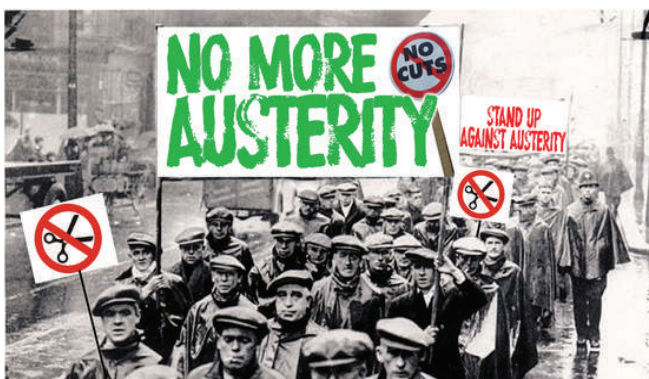
Green Party member Anne Power, 82, has become a figurehead for the anti-fracking protest camp at Barton Moss, Salford. The retired teacher travelled six miles to the camp on most days throughout the winter, with the help of her walking stick, to help set up blockades, provide food and counselling, and raise awareness.

Natalie Bennett, Green Party Leader, said:

*"I congratulate Anne on this well-deserved recognition. She's been a stalwart of the anti-fracking movement, on the front line day after day, and I've seen first-hand how her passion and commitment to the cause is inspiring many others of all ages. She's acting out of altruism, a concern not for herself but for future generations, and that model of dedication is one that we must celebrate and encourage."*

Power has also been instrumental in the legal overturning of arrests made at the site. *"I stand as witness in court looking like a respectable citizen, which helps the judge decide they're not dealing with morons, layabouts and hippies, but clever, dedicated people, giving up their lives to a cause"*.

VIDEO of Anne Frank threatened with arrest by police  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=-8ANT1J8yeM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=-8ANT1J8yeM)



Be a part of history



Join the Green Party in backing the public sector strikes against austerity on 10th July 2014

## Striking against austerity

**On July 10th Green Party members joined in the one-day strike over pay by public sector employees.**

The Green Party supports employees' right to strike and to picket peacefully to assert their right to fair wages and proper treatment. Public sector employees are facing unprecedented financial hardship with part-time and female employees the most affected under the Government's ideological austerity agenda.

Around a million workers protested against the Government policy of frozen and restricted pay including workers from the PCS, The National Union of Teachers, Unison, and UNITE.

Greens across the country showed their support:

**Green MP Caroline Lucas said:**

*"It is very clear that austerity isn't working. It's cruel and counterproductive. It should not be the most vulnerable who are paying the price of an economic crisis that was not of their making. People are struggling, the cost of living is rising and it's time the Government recognised the value of workers who provide us with crucial services every day."*



**Green leader, Natalie Bennett said:**

*"This government's austerity agenda is making public sector employees, joined with benefit recipients, the increasing numbers of poorly paid, and insecure private sector employees, pay for the financial crisis. George Osborne is cutting the tax rate for multinational companies and inviting them to dodge even that reduced rate of taxes, and at the same time has slashed the real pay of the dinner ladies, the cleaners, and the local officers who keep our communities running."*

**Green Party TU Liaison Officer, Romaine Phoenix said:**

*"The economic crisis was caused by the banks; how could it ever be fair - or effective - to fix it by cutting workers' pay? Our public services benefit the majority. This is about not letting those at the top blame the rest of us for problems we didn't cause."*

**Greening Trade Unions**

As well as many Trade Unions signing up to the one million green jobs campaign (<http://www.campaigncc.org/greenjobs>), UNITE passed a motion to oppose fracking at their last conference, the PCS have local green reps and the NUT seem to be using our education policy to lobby other parties.

The Labour Party of today has a poor record of defending workers' rights, whilst the Green Party is increasingly being considered as a serious voice to be listened to in TU circles.



# News from CAROLINE LUCAS MP

## Public transport in public hands

Last week Labour announced it would allow the state to bid against private operators for new rail franchises. Welcome news as far as it goes, but what a shame Ed Miliband bottled it, and failed to support bringing all the franchises back into public hands, as they expire.

I have retabled my Private Members Bill which would achieve exactly that. The private sector has failed to live up to its grand promises of innovation and investment. Indeed, privatisation has been an unmitigated disaster.

I asked the Secretary of State for Transport about the percentage change since 1980 in real terms of the cost to the traveller via bus, car and train.

Between 1997 and 2013, rail fares leapt up by 22 per cent, bus and coach fares increased by 28 per cent - while the cost of motoring fell by nine per cent.

By bringing our railways back into public hands, the country could save £1 billion a year – money which could be used to improve services and reduce fares.

I've likewise called on the Government to look at options for regulating bus services outside of London, or placing them into public ownership, to protect users from unregulated fare hikes and provide reliable, frequent services.

## Mothers on marriage certificates

It's been a pleasure to support Ailsa Burkimsher Sadler in her petition to get mothers' names onto marriage certificates. It's great that progress is being made as pressure on the Home Office rightly mounts.

The petition has now gained almost 70,000



Obsolete T-shirts

signatures and my Early Day Motion has become this year's 'most signed' – supported by more than 100 MPs. It's high time for change and, clearly, many others agree.

## Climate Change and the BBC

I arranged a meeting with BBC to raise concerns about recent coverage of climate change and disproportionate air time given to climate sceptics like Lord Lawson – I also talked about need for more comprehensive training for BBC staff in some basic climate science.

And I lent my support to the launch of the Climate Coalition's new 'for the love of' campaign, which is designed to encourage us to think of all the things we love that are threatened by climate change – and to take action to protect them. The campaign is backed by the Women's Institute, the British Medical Association and wide range of environment groups.

## Dog Awareness Week

Constituents asked me to attend a parliamentary reception for a campaign launched by the charity Guide Dogs to make

travelling by bus easier for people with sight loss. I was pleased to go along and learn more about the campaign for all new buses to have audio visual (AV) next stop announcements, because these are vital for blind and partially sighted bus travellers.

I also attended a Royal Mail event in parliament for its national Dog Awareness Week, encouraging responsible dog ownership and raising awareness of dog attacks on Royal Mail's postmen and women.

## Syrian refugees

The Government has badly let down Syrians and betrayed Britain's status as a haven for those in real need. To date just 50 people have been granted refuge in Britain from the horrors of the conflict in their home country. I questioned the Secretary of State for the Home Department about this and her response was completely unsatisfactory.

Countries bordering Syria are buckling from the volume of people seeking refuge: roughly 1.1 million Syrians have fled to tiny Lebanon alone and will account for a third of its population by the end of this year, says the UN.

The UN has called on other countries to accept their share of the responsibility for the people of Syria who desperately need assistance, and asylum - and it's time the British Government stepped up.

## Health

As part of my ongoing work in support of the NHS I supported the TUC's NHS lobby of parliament. It was a chance to speak to constituents who'd come to Parliament for the day to share their concerns about levels of care, pay and conditions for NHS staff.

I also lent my support to an Early Day Motion calling for better support for the one in four people who experience a mental health problem in any given year.

## Housing

I've been busily preparing for this week's launch of my draft Housing Charter.

As well as speaking with constituents, I've been meeting with organisations including the National Housing Federation to revise and develop the Charter.

If you'd like a say on the draft Charter's proposals please email me.

## Contacting Me

If you would like to know about my parliamentary work please get in touch at the House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA. Tel: 020 7219 7025.

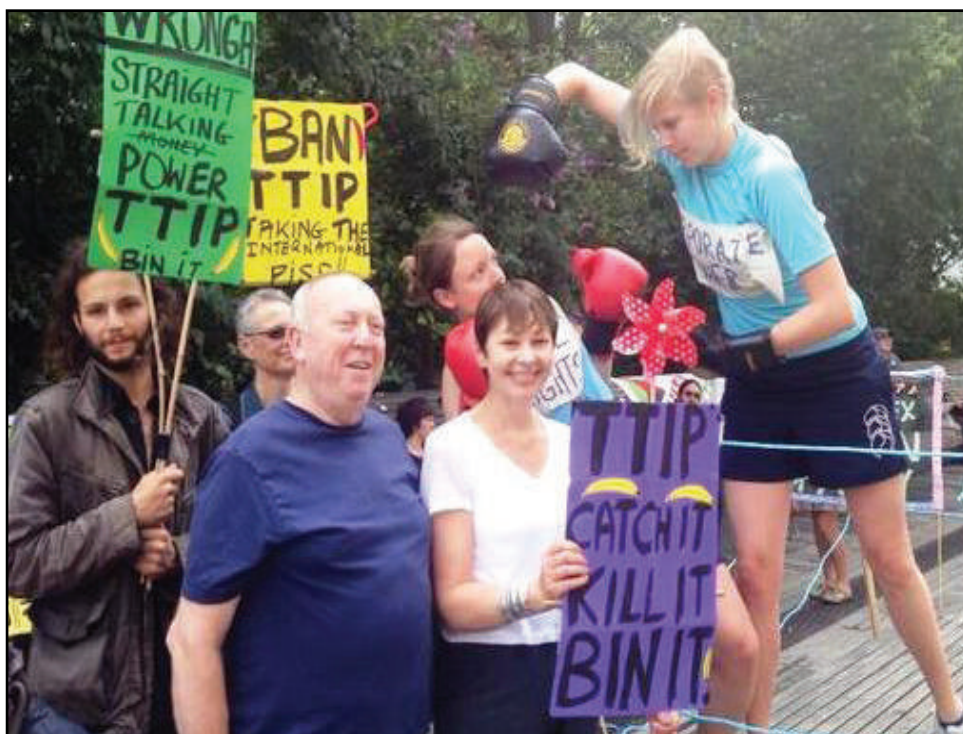
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You can also keep up to date with my news on:

Twitter: [@carolinelucas](https://twitter.com/carolinelucas)

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My Website: [www.carolinelucas.com](http://www.carolinelucas.com)



# European and local elections results - May 22nd 2014

## European Elections - Partial success

We contested all the European regions and were reasonably confident we would hold our existing seats in London and the South East, and we had high hopes of gaining up to four additional MEPs in regions where we had come tantalisingly close to winning in the previous round of Euro Elections in 2009.

We were on a knife edge right up to polling day. A couple of percentage points either way of our 2009 share of the vote spelled either total disaster or magnificent success. The opinion polls looked quite promising right up to the wire, placing us consistently ahead of the LibDems.

When all the results had been declared, however, we learned that our vote share had fallen, albeit by just 0.92%. This was just enough to retain our two existing MEPs, and to elect one more - Molly Scott Cato. This is a tribute to the team in the South West and clearly demonstrated the difference a really well-planned and well-executed campaign can make. It was the only region that succeeded in increasing the Green vote share.

Whilst obviously rejoicing in this gain, it was a big disappointment to candidates in the other three target regions, and to all the party activists and supporters who worked so hard in their campaigns.

## European Election results

	%	Votes	Change
<b>UK</b>	7.80%	1,255,573	-0.75
<b>South West</b>	11.10%	166,447	1.8
<b>South East</b>	9.00%	211,706	-2.6
<b>London</b>	8.90%	196,419	-2
<b>East</b>	8.50%	133,331	-0.3
<b>Yorkshire</b>	7.80%	102,282	-0.6
<b>North West</b>	7.00%	123,075	-0.7
<b>East Midlands</b>	6.00%	67,066	-0.85
<b>West Midlands</b>	5.30%	71,464	-1
<b>North East</b>	5.20%	31,605	-0.6
<b>Wales</b>	4.50%	33,275	-1

## Local election success

Fortunately our local election results provided some extra cheer as we continued our annual progress, again increasing our number of councillors and establishing footholds in new areas.

We fielded a very impressive 1,875 candidates, and won 37 seats, of which 20 were holds. We came overall second place in several places including Haringey, Oxford, Bristol, Norwich and Greens are now the official opposition in Liverpool, Solihull, Lewisham and Camden. We came first in the constituency of Bristol West.

## Green policy - superior and popular

There is a website where people can vote for the policies of the five main parties, but without knowing who the policies belong to. Unsurprisingly, the Greens comes out of this exercise as the most popular party by a significant margin. It's not surprising because our policies are the best (the only coherent policy programme offering a survivable future with equality and fairness for all).

Why then, don't we do better in elections? The extensive post-election feedback by Party members in blogs, reports, Facebook etc. provide a mass of opinions about this. Inadequate and unfair media coverage is a firm favourite (see next page for more on this). Many believe we appear too left wing and turn off the mass of ex LibDem voters and people fed up with the

mainstream parties. But others suggest we are still perceived as a single issue environmental party and need to push our social justice issues even harder.

The opinion polls showed immigration to be the first or second most important concern to voters. Unfortunately our commendable defence of immigrants did not resonate in the same way with the public as the populist calls for tighter border controls by UKIP and others.

## Organisation and funding

A number of members provided compelling evidence that policy played a secondary role to good organisation - of actually getting out there and engaging the public face-to-face. Wherever we had extensive canvassing, leafleting and local campaigning going on, our vote share was significantly better. Targeting to win works!

Another crucial factor is finance. If we had the kind of funds enjoyed by the other parties to spend on billboards, advertising, social media, staff, literature, etc., coupled with really effective, professional organisation our fortunes would be transformed.

## Looking ahead

The good news is that despite all the difficulties, we have a rapidly expanding party, up by 23% in the first five months of this year, and now with over 17,000 members. In addition, we have a greatly enhanced body of paid staff, headed up by our new Directors of Campaigns and Fundraising & Operations. In their first few months they have hugely elevated the efficiency and morale of the central office. We are seeing big improvements in the areas of organisation, campaigning, IT capabilities, fundraising and so on.

All in all, the elections were a success for the Party. Following a comprehensive analysis then, new strategies and procedures will be forthcoming to build on the Party's strengths, address its weaknesses, and to capitalise the expanding base of members, supporters and volunteers. This will all serve to take us forward to much greater successes in the future.

**The future is bright. The future is Green.**

*Peter Barnett*





# BBC and media coverage of the Greens

## Young Green's BBC petition hits 50,000 signatures

by Josiah Mortimer

The Young Greens have been busy promoting a petition to the BBC by one of our members, Portia Cocks, which has now hit over 50,000 signatures.

The petition, BBC News: Stop This Media Blackout of the Green Party,

<https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/bbc-news-stop-this-media-blackout-of-the-green-party>

chastises the BBC for its lack of coverage of the Greens during the European election campaign and for its non-stop promotion of UKIP over the election period.

Supported by 38 Degrees, the petition was handed in to BBC headquarters on June 9th

<http://blog.38degrees.org.uk/?p=13216&preview=true>

and was met with security and a metal fence surrounding those demonstrating. You can read the full report on the previous link. It's quite disturbing stuff!

The campaign got coverage in **Press Gazette**:

<http://www.pressgazette.co.uk/bbc-accused-being-biased-against-green-party-elections-coverage>

**The Ecologist**:

[http://www.theecologist.org/blogs\\_and\\_comments/commentators/2426733/bbc\\_end\\_your\\_green\\_party\\_news\\_blackout.html](http://www.theecologist.org/blogs_and_comments/commentators/2426733/bbc_end_your_green_party_news_blackout.html)

**Click Green, Business Green, Economic Voice** and other publications.

It all shows the power of petitions in raising awareness of issues, and of social media and news sites.

The BBC's response was predictably disappointing but it certainly put them in the spotlight!

Video of Portia Cocks and others:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2zn\\_lmGfbjl](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2zn_lmGfbjl)



Portia Cocks and Martin O'Beirne

## BBC and the Greens

by Peter Barnett

### Minor party status for Greens

Unfortunately the Green Party was snookered with respect to gaining decent coverage by the broadcasters right from the start - not by the BBC, but Ofcom - who issued a directive to the broadcasting agencies which elevated UKIP to major party status, whilst relegating the Green Party to a lower tier requiring much less attention.

Senior Party officials met with Ofcom to appeal this decision, but to no avail. The four "major" parties had many more MEPs than us: Tory (26), Lab (13), UKIP (13), LibDem (11), Green (2), and despite the Lib Dems' withering poll ratings, as a member of the governing coalition they were perfectly safe from being downgraded.

I still believe this was wrong. This was an election for the **European Parliament**. The power, influence and effectiveness of any candidate elected would be determined by the size of the group their party belongs to in the European Parliament. On this basis, as a member of the Green Group, the fourth largest in Europe, we had 55 MEPs. UKIP, on the other hand, belonged to a group (containing some very unpleasant extreme right wing elements) with only 32 MEPs, ranked 7th in size.

Even on a domestic basis, whilst UKIP had a few more Principal Authority councillors than the Greens (generally of a much lower quality I might add!), the Greens had two members in the London Assembly, a Member of Parliament, and was the governing administration of Brighton and Hove. UKIP had zip.

### Media blackout of the Greens

**There was no media blackout.** The problem was that the near blanket coverage being afforded to Nigel Farage and UKIP, coupled with the extensive time given to the other three parties, sure made it seem that way.

In fact, the number of national and regional media interviews and broadcast appearances provided to us was better than we've enjoyed for many years. During the last week of the campaign we were struggling to fulfil all the media invitations coming in.

By this time however, the BBC had received a huge volume of complaints, and not just from our members, particularly about the



phenomenal airtime given to Nigel Farage. Andrew Neil even commented on the fact to Natalie Bennett on *Politics today*!

The BBC seemed to be beginning to realise that its claims of impartiality were wearing paper thin, and during the last few days things improved a little. Ongoing discourse between the BBC and our national press office will also have contributed.

But on the night the EU results were declared Green Party members were again upset and angered at the way the Party was poorly covered. Newsworthy enough, one might think, but barely mentioned, the Greens beat the coalition partner LibDems into 5th place, and the BBC and Sky persistently omitted the Green Party by dumping us into the 'others' category. It wasn't until 2.30 in the morning that they finally interviewed Natalie Bennett, having exhaustively aired the views of every politician and commentator under the sun.

### The last straw

This was the last straw for Portia Cocks, who went on to initiate the BBC petition reported on the left. Petitions like these pose a risk, as they often gain just a few hundred supporters before fizzling out, achieving the opposite to what was intended. In addition, the BBC could, with some legitimacy, claim their coverage of the Greens was no less than required under the instructions of Ofcom.

In this case, however, acquiring some 50,000 signatures so quickly, coupled with 1,200 written objections was an amazing result, and clearly demonstrated a high level of discord going well beyond the membership of the Green Party.

The positive results from the local and EU elections of May 22nd put us in a better negotiating position to obtain an enhanced rating from Ofcom in 2015, and meanwhile we are building on good relationships we've developed with the media.

# Campaigns and events

## Save Our Antibiotics

The **Alliance to Save Our Antibiotics** is an alliance of health, medical, environmental and animal welfare groups working to stop the over-use of antibiotics in animal farming.

It was founded by the **Soil Association, Compassion in World Farming and Sustain** in 2009, and is supported by the **Jeremy Collier Foundation**.

*Its vision is a world in which human and animal health and well-being are protected by food and farming systems that do not rely routinely on antibiotics and related drugs.*

**Sign the petition Save Our Antibiotics here:**

<https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/please-save-our-antibiotics#>

**Access our new Briefing:** Antimicrobial resistance - why the irresponsible use of antibiotics in agriculture must stop, June 2014


<http://www.soilassociation.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=G9q4uEb5de1%3d&tabid=1841>

Green Party

## Manifesto on Animal Protection

Download a copy from here:


<http://greenparty.org.uk/news/2014/04/10/green-animal-manifesto-greens-are-the-voice-for-animals-in-europe/>



**Green Party Euro 2014**

**Manifesto on Animal Protection**

- Greens have the strongest policies on animal protection of all the parliamentary political parties and a proven track record of action in Europe.
- Greens ARE the voice for animals in Europe.
- No party has stronger policies combined with a record of action on animal-protection issues.



## Northern Vegan Festival

**Saturday September 13 - Blackpool**

**Live a Better Life Fair**

Up to 200 vegan, green, fairtrade, and human rights stalls, films, talks, free vegan food and a Green Party stall.

10 mins walk from Blackpool North train station. More info: <http://www.northernveganfestival.com/>

A July 2014 Oxford University study found that the production of vegan food has a lower carbon footprint than the production of food for any other type of diet, and a 2009 Worldwatch Institute report blamed meat and dairy production for 51% of greenhouse gas emissions:

<http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs10584-014-1169-1>

<http://www.worldwatch.org/files/pdf/Livestock%20and%20Climate%20Change.pdf>

## MARCH FOR THE NHS

### What day will you be marching?

Following in the steps of the Jarrow marchers, a group known as **999Call For the NHS** (or the “**Darlo mums**”, although there are men too) is planning **The People's March for the NHS**

<http://999callfortheNHS.org.uk/>

from Jarrow to London to call for an end to the privatisation of the NHS and protection of its funding and free services, in late August and early September.

*This will be a great opportunity for local Green parties along the route (and further afield) to demonstrate our unique policy in this area.*

**David Masterman** of the relatively new **Teesside Green Party** (e-mail [teessidegreenparty@gmail.com](mailto:teessidegreenparty@gmail.com)) is aiming to coordinate a Green Party presence each day from Jarrow to Leeds (the first week), and it would be great to have volunteer Green Party coordinators for the Leeds-Leicester and Leicester-London stages.

*Could you help? If so please e-mail*

**Natalie Bennett** at:

[leader@greenparty.org.uk](mailto:leader@greenparty.org.uk)



North East Greens show their support for the  
**March for the NHS**

## online Green Group Newsletter

**A weekly collection of links to Green Party stories and campaigns**

**Free by E-mail subscription**

*Links to stories about Green Party luminaries, councillors, local parties, press releases and much more. Links to videos and photos.*

*Click on link below or copy address to your browser:*

<http://paper.li/CllrMediaReview/1377242630>



# NATALIE BENNETT

## Green Party Leader's Update

### The sun is shining and the Green Party is growing

First, I have to begin with congratulations to the South West for electing Molly Scott Cato as our first MEP in the region, building our presence in Brussels – and we are already seeing Molly making an impact. Likewise to all of our new councillors up and down the country, and everyone who helped to get them elected.

Of course as soon as one election goes, another comes along straight away, and my focus now is on the General Election. Our first priority is help re-elect Caroline in Brighton Pavilion – do get down there for a day or more during the summer if you can, and if not soon after. If travelling isn't an option, phone canvassing will be starting soon – please sign up!

We are soon going to see a series of big announcements on candidate selections in key seats – increasing the spread of the Green Party across the country, enhancing opportunities for press coverage and general attention.

### Summertime

As is befitting for summer, lots of my activity lately seems to have been outdoors, the most strenuous being a 15 mile, hilly walk with the Tolpuddle pilgrimage (<http://newint.org/blog/2014/04/23/tolpuddle-pilgrimage-social-change/>), retracing the journey the Martyrs would have taken when they returned from Australia, visiting community gardens and food growing efforts along the way. (MEP Molly will be speaking at the event itself.)

I had an informative (and tasty) visit to Riverside Market Garden outside Cardiff, combined with a visit to the newly restored Penarth Pier and



*Checking out the broad beans at the Riverside Market Garden outside Cardiff*

meeting with Wales members, many of them new, in Cardiff.

At Glastonbury I got drenched with the crowds after speaking at the Green Fields to a big audience. My local paper reported that I was

from the AGC.

I also spoke at the Electoral Reform Society summer reception in parliament, presented a transport award at the Business Green annual dinner, and enjoyed judging a Debating Matters semi-final with sixth formers presenting a discussion on Western military interventionism that would have put many parliamentary efforts to shame.



“rocking out” to Arcade Fire. This may not have been strictly true ... but I was listening to them!

*Congratulating Councillor Chris Williams for all of his hard work at the West Midlands awards day*

### Green Awards

The Annual Association of Green Councillors conference was both informative and almost outdoor – with many of the sessions held in the glorious, sunflower-studded garden of the Kind Centre in Liverpool. It's great to see this growing every year, as is the famous West Midlands Awards day, when I got to hone my comedy skills with Cllr Tom Harris as I lined up with a double act. It was great to hear about the successes, and get some hints at the tactics that helped to achieve them. Lots of good ideas – many to be found in the essential Target to Win manual, which can be purchased

### Find out more

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/GreenNatalieBennett>

Twitter

<https://twitter.com/natalieben>

Email:

[leader@greenparty.org.uk](mailto:leader@greenparty.org.uk)



*Meeting anti-fracking campaigners at Glastonbury*



*Signing the Nelson Mandela commemorative book*



# Molly Scott Cato MEP



**Dr Molly Scott Cato made history by becoming the first Green Party MEP for the South West. The Green Party gained 11.2% of the vote in the European Election, taking the sixth seat out of six.**

Speaking shortly after the results were announced, Molly Scott Cato said:

*"The Greens are the only party with a clear and positive message on EU reform, which I think was attractive to voters and translated into the result we see today. Our 'people before profit' policies have really resonated with voters who have been looking for a viable alternative party which truly represents their values."*

## Molly's agenda as an MEP

I am a green economist because I think the origins of ecological crisis lies in the way our economy is organised, which breeds a lot of discontent and suffering.

I will be on the **Economic & Monetary Affairs Committee**, working with others to regulate banks so that they work for the common good rather than narrowly in the interests of their shareholders.

It would also be good to challenge the hegemonic growth narrative and start to encourage people to think about what the economy does and who it serves, rather than how big it is.

Molly also has a substitute place on the **Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee**, very relevant to the South West, and states her intention to defend nature and small family farms against agribusiness. She will be joining the battle on to keep genetically modified crops out of Europe where the lobbying pressure is very powerful.

Also resisting other lobbyists undermining the precautionary principle in pursuit of profit, as in the recent case of Syngenta, who got the UK government to seek an exemption for them from the ban on neonicotinoids, in spite of the evidence that they are damaging to bees. Fortunately it failed.



## Molly Scott Cato MEP In the European Parliament

Group member: Greens - European Free Alliance

Member: **Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee**

Substitute: **Agriculture and Rural Development Committee**

## Political history

Member of the Green Party since 1988

Stroud Council Green Party: **Group leader** 2012-14, **Chair of Audit and Standards Committee** 2011-14

Stroud District Council: **Co-ordinator, Lifestyles & Livelihoods Working Group, Transition Stroud, Member of Stroud Community Agriculture, Director of Stroud Common Wealth**

## Biography

Molly Scott Cato is MEP for the South West of England and was previously a Professor of Economics at Roehampton University.



She speaks for the Green Party of England and Wales on finance issues. Molly also has expertise in the issues of renewable energy; trade; food and farming; and co-operatives and mutuals.

Molly grew up in Bath, which she left to study Politics, Philosophy and Economics at Oxford University. Following a career in publishing she took a PhD in Economics from the University of Wales, Aberystwyth focusing on employment in the South Wales Valleys. She has written several books including Green Economics (2009), Environment and Economy (2011) and The Bioregional Economy (2012) as well as numerous academic papers.

Molly has three children and lives in Stroud. She has spent a lifetime involved with social movements and community activity including the Transition Towns and Stroud Community Agriculture in her home town. She enjoys singing, basket-making and bodging.

## Contact

### Molly Scott Cato

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# News from KEITH TAYLOR, MEP for S.E. England

## Elections

I am tremendously proud to have been re-elected as the MEP for South East England for another five years and would like to pass on a big thank you to everyone who worked so hard on the election campaign.

I am delighted that London MEP Jean Lambert was also re-elected, and a third Green MEP, Molly Scott Cato in the South West region, will be joining us.

## Recruiting a media officer

I am currently recruiting a media officer to work 4 days a week in my London office. I'm looking for an enthusiastic, creative and strategic communications professional who can support me to raise my media profile and publicise my work to a wide range of audiences. For more information, see here:

<http://www.keithtaylormep.org.uk/job-opportunities/>

## TTIP

The EU is currently consulting on ongoing trade negotiations between the EU and US which could grant special rights to corporations, and even allow them to sue governments if they believe their profits are threatened by regulations.

I have been critical of this trade deal - known as TTIP - from the outset and all UK Green MEPs have responded to the consultation to make our objections quite clear.

We will continue to fight these proposals, which make a mockery of the established legal and judicial systems in place in the UK and across Europe. On Saturday 12th July, I joined many of my constituents in Brighton as part of a national day of action in protest against this potentially disastrous deal.

Read my consultation response here:

[http://www.keithtaylormep.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/ISDS-in-TTIP-consultation-response-Keith-Taylor-MEP\\_04072014.pdf](http://www.keithtaylormep.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/ISDS-in-TTIP-consultation-response-Keith-Taylor-MEP_04072014.pdf)

## Dungeness

I recently responded to news that the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) has approved changes to key safety standards at Dungeness B nuclear power station in Kent.

EDF, the energy company operating Dungeness, had applied to the ONR to relax the safety limits for graphite bricks inside the reactor, in order to prolong the life of the reactor. The graphite bricks are vital for safety.

The ONR's decision is particularly worrying as Dungeness has had a number of unplanned shutdowns in recent months due to safety concerns.

I responded to the news by calling for Dungeness to be decommissioned as soon as possible to make way for safe jobs in renewable energy production.

## Good news for bees!

I was relieved to hear that Syngenta decided to withdraw their 'emergency' application to exempt their bee-killing pesticide from an EU ban.

The use of such pesticides - known as neonicotinoids - was temporarily banned by the European Commission last year after a European Food Safety Authority report showed the pesticides to be toxic to bees. Populations of honeybees, and other pollinators, have been plummeting since the 1990s when neonicotinoids were first marketed. The ban is due to last for two years so that scientists can carry out further necessary research.

Syngenta's blatant disregard of the ban prompted uproar in the Green community - over 210,000 people signed a petition calling on David Cameron to reject the exemption, and I wrote to the PM urging him to put our bees before Syngenta's profits.

This is a fantastic example of what protest can achieve. But with Syngenta stating that they intend to reapply next year, the battle is far from over.

Read my letter:

[http://www.keithtaylormep.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Letter-from-Keith-Taylor-MEP\\_-\\_Neonicotinoids\\_-\\_30th-June-2014.pdf](http://www.keithtaylormep.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Letter-from-Keith-Taylor-MEP_-_Neonicotinoids_-_30th-June-2014.pdf)

Sign the 38 Degrees petition:

<http://www.38degrees.org.uk/page/s/david-cameron-uphold-the-european-ban#petition>

**Keith Taylor MEP**



**Keith Taylor**, Green Party MEP for the South East region. He sits on European Parliamentary Committees for Transport & Tourism, International Trade, International Relations & Development, and is a parliamentary member of the Group of the Greens and European Free Alliance.

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# News from JEAN LAMBERT, MEP for London

**In May voters across the EU elected their new Members of the European Parliament, to serve until May 2019.**

Here in the UK we increased our numbers from two to three: Jean Lambert (London) and Keith Taylor (South-East England) have now been joined by Molly Scott Cato (South-West England).

They are again sitting with the Greens/ EFA Group - a slightly smaller group in this European Parliament and now the sixth group out of seven. The group has elected Rebecca Harms (Germany) and Philippe Lamberts (Belgium) as its Co-Presidents.

Jean will continue her work as a member of both the Employment and Social Affairs and the Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs committees.

## Opposition to EU-US trade deal

Jean has called on the European Commission to abandon plans to enter into a new trade deal between the EU and US that will erode workers' rights.

Called TTIP – the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership – the proposed deal, which has largely been negotiated behind closed doors, will give US companies the right to bid for formerly publicly-provided services (enshrining in law, amongst other things, recent NHS privatisation), and the right to sue governments for enacting 'trade-distorting' regulations designed to protect consumers, the environment – or even health and safety.

There was a series of demonstrations against TTIP around the country on Saturday, July 12th. In London, demonstrators congregated outside the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills in central London where Jean addressed the rally.

## Some good news for lions

After Green intervention, the EU is to revise its rules on the import of hunting 'trophies' from Africa.

Earlier this year Jean and Keith wrote to the European Commission to highlight the growing practise of 'canned hunting' – in which lions are kept in captivity for tourists to shoot.

Responding, EU Environment Commissioner Janez Potocnik said the rules will be tightened up.

Jean said: "While it is mainly happening outside the EU we can't directly put a stop to it, but we can ban the import of any such 'trophies' that result to discourage EU holiday-makers from taking part in this unacceptably cruel activity."

See more: <http://www.jeanlambertmep.org.uk/2014/06/09/eu-heed-green-meps-call-ban-import-canned-hunting-trophies/>



*Molly Scott Cato MEP, Jean Lambert MEP, Keith Taylor MEP*

## Jean Lambert MEP

Jean Lambert is the Green Party Member of the European Parliament for London. She is particularly interested in issues of human rights and equality and is the Green Party's specialist on asylum and immigration issue. Jean is the EU Parliament's rapporteur on the revision of the EU Qualifications Directive

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For all the latest news and events go:

[http://www.jeanlambertmep.org.uk/news\\_events\\_newsletter.php](http://www.jeanlambertmep.org.uk/news_events_newsletter.php)

## Europe's new flag?

## #noTTIP



Only the Green Party would stop lower American standards being imposed on Europe through the Transatlantic Trade & Investment Partnership.



**Green Party**  
for the common good



# Local Party tales

## ENFIELD GREEN PARTY

### The Hoppers Road Campaign

by Jean Robertson-Molloy

**H**oppers Road, Enfield, was once a leafy rural thoroughfare and the original main road into the village of Winchmore Hill, known centuries ago as a haven for Quaker hot-heads. But latterly it had become both a track for vehicles eager to by-pass the traffic lights and heavier traffic on Green Lanes as well as a residential road with a school at one end.

A 20mph speed limit for all residential roads in Enfield had been adopted as EGP policy back in 2009, but Enfield loves its big cars. In the summer of 2012 I did a mini survey in one section of Hoppers Road to note how many vehicles triggered the 30 mph warning light. A lot!

Then a local festival gave us the chance of a stall where we advertised our petition for a 20 mph limit in Hoppers. People love signing petitions and we soon had 300 signatures.

With less than a dozen serious activists in our Party our preferred campaign style was division of labour. Thus, two or three activists focused mainly on negotiating with the Council and giving the local press a strong message that we meant business. Others took round the petition to Hoppers and some adjacent roads, hoping to include them in the overall scheme. Our petition swelled to 700. Some Labour councillors, who at that point had a small majority in the Borough, seemed sympathetic.

Meanwhile we kept attending Residents' Association meetings, where there was initially quite a lot of opposition, especially to the dreaded humps, also opposed by ourselves.

Finally after many false alarms, the Council decided to consult local residents and eventually around Christmas 2013, the 20 mph signs, and the humps, were installed along the whole length of Hoppers Road. We hailed this as a partial victory.



Enfield Green Hoppers

#### New recruit

Dr. Tristan Learoyd, Independent councillor for St Germain's ward, Cleveland and Redcar, has applied to join the Green Party and has been accepted. *Welcome!*

Here is a BBC story about his resistance to student loans

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-wear-12356950>



Babergh Green Party (South Cosforth team) celebrates first win on Babergh DC - by AGC Coordinator Robert Lindsay

## BABERGH GREEN PARTY

### Getting the voters out

By Cllr Robert Lindsay

**I**t shouldn't be any great mystery why voter turnout was higher in council wards where there was a local by-election at the same time as the European Elections last May.

The ward that I won, South Cosford, in Babergh District Council, achieved a 55 per cent turnout – the highest of any ward in the country on 22 May.

Why? Residents had at least three district council candidates knocking on their doors. They were told about the election and told about the choices. Many of them got to meet and talk to the candidates and then they talked about it with their friends and neighbours.

They realised that the candidates were real people, not just party political puppets, and that they had a great opportunity to affect the outcome. "If you've bothered to come to my door, I'll bother to vote", was the general response.

Democracy is alive and well at the local level, but only if the candidates do the leg work. It is not the electorate that has turned its back on political parties, it is some of the members of the political parties who have begun to take their votes for granted.

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Babergh-Green-Party/689127367785194?fref=ts>



Congratulations to Cllr Chris Briton, who was appointed Mayor of the City of Wells in May 2014, and is Somerset's first Green mayor. Pictured here with Molly Scott Cato MEP.

# Climate change and extreme weather

*NOTE: This article was written last February, at the height of the floods*

## In the UK, the country is experiencing its most exceptional period of rainfall in 248 years.

Scientists are increasingly able to [link the upward trends in extreme weather](#) to [climate change](#)—and these latest examples are giving them even more evidence.

In the UK, the country is experiencing its [most exceptional period of rainfall in 248 years](#), with hundreds of flood alert warnings covering much of the country and hundreds of homes left inundated.

The prolonged storms have played havoc across the country since December, with more than 130 severe flood risk warnings—meaning a potential threat to life—issued and more than 5,000 homes flooded.

This week fourteen severe warnings remain in place, with no let up of the rain in sight.

And as the country tries to get a grip on the situation, the UK Met Office has said that “[all evidence suggests there is a link to climate change](#).”

Julia Slingo, chief scientist at the Met Office said:

Nobody has come forward to counter the basic premise that if you have a warmer world you are going to get more intense heavy rain rates ... We know that warmer air holds more water.

*The UK Met Office has said that “all evidence suggests there is a link to climate change.”*

Across the globe in Brazil, residents in Sao Paulo—South America’s largest city—are facing the opposite problem, as record heat and drought have sparked fears of water shortages. The city is on alert following warnings the system that provides half the its [drinking water could run dry in the next 40 days](#).

Like cities across Brazil, Sao Paulo is experiencing its worst drought in 50 years, with last month the hottest January on record.

The combination of low precipitation and extreme heat right across the country are not only sparking fears of water shortages but also of [crop damage and higher energy prices](#).

The Western U.S. is facing similar problems, as the state of California is in the grips of what is likely to be the [region’s worst drought in 500 years](#).

[Low snowpack in the mountains](#) are leaving the state’s creeks, rivers and reservoirs—which provide essential water and hydroelectric power for cities and the agricultural industry—dry, putting food supplies at risk.

Meanwhile, [wildfires continue to plague](#) the region at increased rates.

Brazil and California aren’t the only places experiencing record drought and heat.

In Alaska, record high temperatures have triggered a series of [extremely large avalanches](#), with debris piles more than 30-metres thick blocking off towns from highway access.

Stifling heat in Australia is also causing havoc, after the country suffered through its hottest January in 13 years—the fourth hottest on record.

The dry and hot conditions have left [scores of wildfires](#) raging across southeast Australia, and are threatening the country’s agricultural production, as farmers struggle to provide water for their cattle and crops.



Scientists warn that “[climate change is loading the dice](#)” for more extreme heat, with a new Climate Council report warning of climate change’s influence on the doubling number of hot days Australia experienced in 2008 compared to 1971.

A slew of deadly flooding events is also hitting communities around the world.

In Bolivia [flooding and landslides have so far claimed 42 lives](#) this year, while flooding in northern [Indonesia has killed 13 people](#) and driven tens of thousands more from their homes, and in [Mozambique 11 people have been killed](#) in flooding.

Extreme rainfall is also hitting countries across mainland Europe. Large parts of [France](#) and [Italy](#) are under flood alert, with hundreds of people being forced out of their homes. The heavy rain and flooding have also claimed three lives in Italy and two in France.

In [Romania heavy snowfall](#) has been the problem, blocking roads and railways across the country and leaving schools closed and thousands stranded both in their homes and on the roads.

*The WMO concluded that 2013 was the sixth warmest year since records began more than 160 years ago.*

Cold weather has also been [playing havoc in Slovenia](#), where trees, buildings and cars have been encased in thick ice, causing perilous conditions as power lines and tress tumbling to the ground.

The government estimates that around 40 percent of the country’s forests have been damaged by the cold snap.

The latest examples of extreme weather come as research from the [World Meteorological Organization](#) (WMO) showed that the planet continues to warm and that 2013 was among the ten warmest years since modern records began in 1850.

Analyzing data from the three main global records of surface temperatures—the UK’s Met Office and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and NASA in the U.S.—the WMO concluded that 2013 was [the sixth warmest year since records began](#) more than 160 years ago.



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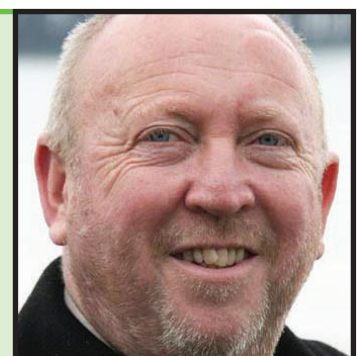
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# The unlikely pilgrimage of Bevis Gillett

## vote for nz

This year you can make genuine choices for the things that really matter in Aotearoa.



Overseas voting period



NZ election day

## Calling all Kiwis

There are over 60,000 New Zealanders living in the UK. If you are one of them, or know of anyone who is, now is the time to encourage them to vote in the **General Election of New Zealand taking place on Sept 20th**.

*Elections in New Zealand are proportional every vote really does count.*

Any Kiwi over 18 who's been back to New Zealand at any point in the last three years can vote in this year's election. The first thing to do is to check your details online:

[www.elections.org.nz](http://www.elections.org.nz)

Encourage your friends, colleagues and family to likewise as there's a very high chance of being registered already.

It's easy to register from overseas. All you need to do is complete a very short online form. You will then be asked to print off a declaration form and return it to Elections NZ. *Easy!*

Further details on postal votes and how these can be sent via the internet can be found at the website address below.

Further details of the election and how you can help the campaign can be found here

<http://voteformnz.com> and <http://elections.org.nz>

**A** Bristol pensioner is cycling the length of Britain in memory of his dead brother, to raise funds to prevent cycling deaths by supporting Caroline Lucas' General Election campaign.

72 year old Bevis Gillett is cycling 1000 miles from Lands End to John O'Groats in memory of his brother David, who was tragically killed whilst cycling in Hereford.

David, at the age of 63, was killed by a young male driver who lost control of his car going round a corner. The young man had only passed his driving test three days previously.

Bevis started his journey at Lands End on July 5th, the same day the Tour to France started in Yorkshire. As the Tour de France headed south to London, Bevis was journeying North.

Bevis's first 550 miles up the west side of England into Scotland took just 10 days. Another week across the Scottish highlands will bring him to John O'Groats at noon on July 20th.

Bevis says: *"I was much influenced by my brother David. David was a keen supporter of the Green Party."* Green Party policy prioritises cycling over motorised transport. To make roads safer Greens have introduced 20mph limits in residential zones with more and improved bicycle lanes. In Brighton, where Greens run the council, road deaths have dropped by nearly two thirds in just three years.

*David always argued that funds used for the green political agenda were three times as valuable, in terms of creating social change, than any gift to charity. I am very pleased to be cycling from Lands End to John O'Groats to raise funds for this important cause.*

*David was also a great admirer of the Green MP Caroline Lucas. The things Caroline has achieved over the years has made me realise the wisdom of his words. Since the next election is round the corner it would be fitting to raise money for Caroline Lucas' re-election campaign."*

It is ten years since his brother's tragic death. In 2013 members of a local Hereford group called **"Greening the Village"** planted trees in his memory along a new cycle route in Hereford.

Bevis added: *"I have decided within reason (in case somebody wins the lottery!) to match any funds raised."*

## How to sponsor the bike ride

To sponsor Bevis' thousand mile bicycle ride you can email your pledge via Bevis and David's sister Jeannie at [jeanni@phonecoop.coop](mailto:jeanni@phonecoop.coop) or make a donation directly through this link: <http://dft.ba/-BEVIS>

## NOTES:

Green Party transport policy: <http://policy.greenparty.org.uk/tr.html>

For information on road deaths in Great Britain: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/reported-road-casualties-in-great-britain-main-results-2013>

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