



City Green

Birmingham Green Party Newsletter March-April 2009



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Some problems are best solved locally and others such as the climate change issue by countries cooperating. The more Green MEPs working together in Brussels the more influence and better for the well being of the planet. June 4th presents us with a real opportunity to secure Felicity a seat. All votes cast will be taken into account, as EU uses Close List System (a type of PR). Make the best of this opportunity and join the Felicity campaigning team. "Think EU and act locally". Your action is important.

Ulla (editor)

Felicity Norman is the West Midlands Lead Candidate for the European Parliamentary elections on June 4th. She has been an active member of the Green Party for 25 years and is a former agriculture spokesperson for the party. She was twice elected to Leominster District Council, serving for seven years before the current Unitary Authority took over. Felicity's chances are forever difficult to predict given that European elections have a habit of strange results for any party. But we can say with certainty that there is every chance the BNP could gain an MEP in our region with just 10% of the vote share. They have two full time regional employees to our one employee and they are scoring strong results in

by-elections at the moment, not to mention having 9 Councillors in Stoke and arguably the number one party there. The last seat in the West Midlands is likely to go to the small party that comes out with the best result and so in Birmingham, where 20% of the region's voters live, we need to do our utmost to ensure Green votes are maximised. If you can help with the campaign, either get involved with local activities or come and help in the regional party office next to the Jewellery Quarter train station.

Chris Williams, Campaign Coordinator

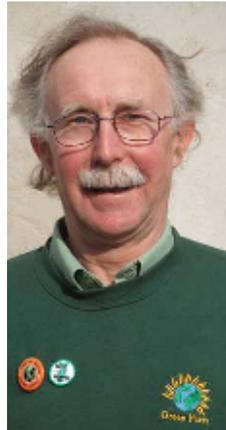
Tel 0121 554 8639

westmidlands@greenparty.org.uk

Here is the new BGP committee elected at the AGM



Alan Bale is the **media officer** for the Birmingham Green Party, a role that provides him with an opportunity to raise the local party profile. He says, "Birmingham Green Party has so much to offer this City, but not enough people know what that is." Originally from Rugby, Alan attended the University of Birmingham from 2003-2006, and never left. Currently he is reading for a post doctorate in Biblical Literary Studies. He has a wife, child and allotment, and is very proud of all three.



Peter Beck (fundraiser and social secretary, job share). Age 66. Two children, three grandchildren. Partner of 30 years, Vina Campbell. Born West Bromwich, WBA supporter. Quinton resident 58 years. History teacher Zambia 10 years. NACRO and Rathbone (employment training/social care) 12 years. Halesowen College library 15 years, UNISON steward. Community activist, currently Quinton Meadows and Quinton Allotments. Labour Party 10 years including ward candidate. Green Party 19 years. BGP ward and parliamentary candidate, membership secretary and joint social/fundraising officer; WMRGP chair; GPEW Masts Policy Advisor. Campaign participation BGPTTW, climate change, anti war, green spaces. Current focus green economics. Leisure activities tennis, walking, local and family history.

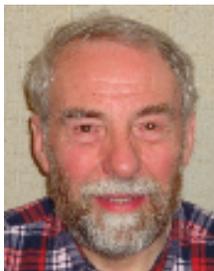
James Burn.



I am excited to be the new **policy co-ordinator** for the Birmingham Green Party. My background is working for a local authority and the voluntary sector, but I am currently studying for an MA in Social Work. I will be bothering you all for your opinions on consultations throughout the year, and hopefully organising some opportunities for us all to look at updating our manifesto together later in the year



Hazel Clawley (newsletter editor, job share). In 1984 there was a Green Party stall at the carnival in Small Heath Park. I was impressed by the literature, and also by Jonathon Porritt on TV. Then I spotted an ad in the local paper for a GP meeting at Friends of the Earth Warehouse. I went, I joined. Since then I've stood for election at every level (unsuccessfully!), and held many posts on BGP committee. Main current concerns: climate change – endless competitive target-setting by government, but no *plan* to achieve them; education – parents jailed for their children's truancy, rather than making school a place children love.



Harry Eyles (fundraiser and social secretary, job share). I joined the Green Party in 1989 and soon made good friends! Over time I became more involved, it's all good stuff. The only difficult thing for me is standing in the Elections, however we do get help from our Election Officer. I'm retired now and slowing down (even more!). My main interests are Barbara, my partner, saving the planet – with all sorts of renewable energy, eco-buildings, more/better public transport, promotion of walking/cycling (with bells), Permaculture and being veggie/vegan. We established BVV (www.bvv.org.uk) 5 years ago. I love doing, and organising, rambles using trains, music (mostly classical), DIY, and recently gardening and also the Transition Town movement. On the downside, I dream of owning a (small) 'Gee Wiz' electric car – but powered by 'Good Energy'.



Ulla Grant (newsletter editor, job share). I joined the Green Party in the 80s, sometimes a sleeping member occasionally active. Some of my Swedish roots were pulled up and planted in Hall Green together with husband in early 70s. Summertime is spent among the trees in Sweden. Other times, I do voluntary work at the WMCND office in Allison Street and go to a philosophy group. Now we are discussing Wolff's Introduction to Political Philosophy. We, the Green Party, ought to work towards reforming the unfair UK voting system enabling us to implement our policies more quickly. On 4th June the Close List System gives us a real opportunity.



Phil Simpson (treasurer) has been in The Green Party for 30 years fighting elections at local, Westminster and European levels. He is the City Council candidate for Harborne ward where he has lived with his family for over 35 years. He has been active in many local community organisations and campaigns over that time particularly his church and The Harborne Society. He is standing for Birmingham, Edgbaston constituency because he knows the global solution is local - local decisions by locally committed people. It's not about Councils or Governments "solving" problems. It's about them enabling people to make the changes that matter - to them and to the planet. Phil is currently serving on national, regional and local Green Party committees where he brings his common sense local experience to discussions & decision at all levels.



Elly Stanton (secretary). DOB: 27.10.64.

Job: general practitioner.

Other job: wife to Alan, mother to Hannah, 10, Joseph, 11, and Shoshana, 15.

Professional interest: Women's Health.

Green Party interest: Third World Debt (member of Jubilee Debt Campaign), children and family affairs and wildlife.

Comment: STILL looking for people to play Interfaith Music!

What is BGP doing? In brief:

- * Supporting the campaign to get Felicity Norman elected as the first West Midlands Green MEP (see p. 1)
 - * Preparing to contest 5 of the 10 Birmingham seats in the next General Election (see p. 4)
 - * Rethinking our approach to Target to Win, and seeking a new "key" candidate for the target ward
 - * Representing the Green Party in various public arenas:
- Alan B spoke for the Green Party at a recent meeting of Birmingham University geographical society on the credit crunch and the environment;
- Alan B has been working on a new website. Type green party birmingham in google and go to website.
- Elly S represented the Green Party at a question time session at Kings Norton Girls School;
- Peter B is to appear in a student-made video speaking for the Green Party on carbon emissions and the carbon footprint. In addition, Peter also represents BGP on the Stop the War Coalition and the Campaign Against Climate Change Coalition.

What you can do to help:

- If you want to be part of the Target to Win Ward activities please get in touch with Peter Beck. Tel 0121 422 6975 or email petercharlesbeck@googlemail.com
- There are also going to be **street stalls** for the Euro Election and leafleting in the Target Ward. If you want to get involved, please get in touch with Peter Beck. Tel 0121 422 6975 or email petercharlesbeck@googlemail.com
- Near the EU election help to get **posters** up in Sandwell, Bearwood and by the Albion ground would be much appreciated. Please contact John Macefield email birminghambookstore@yahoo.co.uk or Chris Williams: westmidlands@greenparty.org.uk Tel 0121 554 8639
- Green New York Mayoral Candidate coming to Birmingham to take part in Fierce Festival, 29 May - a photo opportunity and leafleting around this event may be arranged – see next issue of City Green, due out in May.

BIRMINGHAM GREEN PARTY

SELECTION OF ELECTION CANDIDATE

For personal reasons PETER TINSLEY is standing down as our prospective parliamentary candidate for the Selly Oak Constituency.

Members of Birmingham Green Party are therefore invited to submit nominations for this vacancy.

FORM OF NOMINATION

Nominations may be submitted by post or email to the address below by Friday 17 April 2009 stating:

- the names of TWO members making the nomination
- the name of member nominated
- that the nominee has consented to be nominated

SECRET BALLOT

Following Close of Nominations all members living in the Selly Oak Constituency will be issued with Ballot Forms and be notified of the meeting at which the nominated candidates will be invited to address members.

Alan Clawley
Birmingham Green Party Acting Returning Officer
26 Taywood Drive
Birmingham B10 0DB
0121 772 7165 alan.clawley@virgin.net
19 March 2009

The West Midlands New Economics Group was started in 1994 by a few Green Party members as a forum for challenging orthodox economic theory and policy.

A small band of supporters has met once a month ever since to learn from each other and from the occasional invited "expert".

The group has long since abandoned the attempt to define "new economics" and no sacred cow is exempt from debate. Meetings are held in the Meeting Room, Friends of the Earth, Alison Street on the first Saturday of every month.

We start at 10.15 a.m. and finish promptly at 12 noon for optional lunch and further discussion in the Warehouse Café upstairs.

All are welcome, and the annual subscription is only a pound.

Details of the current programme can be found on the Group's website at:
<http://freespace.virgin.net/alan.clawley>
Alan Clawley, Chair.

Dates for your diary

BGP events

Easter Monday Fundraising Walk to raise funds for the election. About 5 to 6 miles up the Selly Oak canal and parts of Bournville. For more information and sponsor forms contact Peter B (353 2442) or Harry E (353 2442).

Next Committee Meeting (all members welcome)
Wed 15 April, 7.30 p.m. 26 Taywood Drive, Small Heath (Alan and Hazel's 772 7165).

Other Green Groups

West Midlands New Economics Group meets first Saturday of every month at 10.15, in the meeting room in the Warehouse, Allison Street (see above).

Birmingham Vegetarian & Vegans meet regularly at Carr's Lane Church Centre, Birmingham. Tel 353 2442 or email info@bvv.org.uk, website www.bvv.org.uk

BWSW Birmingham Wednesday & Saturday Walkers

Wed 8 April, Alan C. (772 7165) Caer Caradoc (1000 ft climb). 9.42 train New St. arrive 11.11 Church Stretton (change at Shrewsbury). 6 miles.
Wed 13 May, Harry E (353 2442), Ercall Wood, 4 miles and the Wrekin (100 ft climb) 7 miles. 10.42 train New St. arr. 11.05 Wellington. (Rtn ticket for Wellington Shropshire NOT Willington, Derbyshire!)
Wed 24 June, Harry E (353 2442) Brewood. 10.03 train New St. arr. 10.20 Wolverhampton, then 10.40 No 3 bus, arr. 11.05 Brewood. 6 miles.

£230 was raised at the latest BGP enjoyable and fun fundraising party in March. Here is Vina who prepared most of the delicious vegetarian food. Many thanks for that, Vina.



In the meantime you'll be kept informed via email. If you receive this copy of City Green by snail post and have an email address please inform Peter or Hazel, email petercharlesbeck@googlemail.com or clawley.two@virgin.net

And, you keep us informed if you have anything relevant you want to go into City Green. The next City Green deadline is 1st May 2009. Send copy to co-editor Hazel C. clawley.two@virgin.net or 26 Taywood Drive, Birmingham, B10 0DB.

Web addresses for you:

www.westmidlands.greenparty.org.uk and www.greenparty.org.uk

Postal address: E. Stanton, 45 Goodby Road, Birmingham, B13 8RH