



Spring conference 2005

The Winding Wheel, Chesterfield, Derbyshire, 3-6 March 2005

Media highlights

Contact Green Party press office, 020 7561 0282

Themes:

- Climate change and energy
- The corporate takeover of our public services
- Promoting Peace and Security
- Celebrating Fair trade Fortnight
- Providing green solutions to the asylum and immigration so-called "crisis"

Thursday 3 March

1400 Child Health and the Environment. Chris Busby

Dr Chris Busby, The Green Party's science and technology spokesperson. He is an expert on low-level radiation whose ground-breaking research has previously highlighted links between cancer and the dumping of radioactive waste in the Irish Sea.

15.15 Opening ceremony with Robin Harper MSP

Robin Harper is the leader of the Scottish Green Party. He was first elected as an MSP in 1999, since then he has been joined by six other Greens in the Scottish Parliament.

1700 Panel session – Peace and Security Paul Ingram

Paul is Senior Analyst at the British American Security Information Council, and frequently appears on CNBC television, BBC World Service and other broadcast media for comment and analysis on current security issues. He was second-on-the-list to Jean Lambert MEP in the London Euro-elections, and is a former co-leader of Oxford City Council, where the Greens held control.

Friday 4 March

1000 - 1100 Election Rally

Unveiling of the General Election campaign theme

Innovative Joint Speech from the Green Party's two Principal Speakers - Cll Keith Taylor (convenor of the Brighton and Hove city council Green group, one of Britain's strongest local authority Green groups with six councillors) and Dr Caroline Lucas MEP – who will share a joint podium for the first time. Keith Taylor is the prospective parliamentary candidate for Brighton Pavilion. In the European elections last year, the vote for Caroline Lucas in that constituency was calculated at nearly 27%. By pushing Labour into third spot with the LibDems limping in a poor fifth place, Caroline Lucas has set up the prospect of Keith Taylor becoming the Green Party's first Member of Parliament. He is the Party's number 1 target candidate for Westminster.

1100 – 1200 Public Service panel session.

Chaired by Jean Lambert, Green Party MEP for London, and Vice President of the Green/EFA Group in the European Parliament.

1200 - 1300 Fair Trade not Free Trade

Dr Caroline Lucas MEP joins a speaker from the Fairtrade Foundation to celebrate Fairtrade Fortnight. New Green Party fairtrade COFFEE MUGS will be available!

1300 – 1400 Public Services. Curbing the increasing demands on the NHS. Stuart Jeffery

ALL AFTERNOON: Voting paper on Energy

1700 Panel session – Asylum and Immigration

Jean Lambert MEP joins speakers from the UNHCR, Amnesty International and the Refugee Council to provide Green answers to the perceived immigration and asylum “crisis”.

The Green Party is proud of Britain's tradition of being a tolerant society. We have become increasingly concerned that the government is simply fuelling the right wing and racist sector of our society with the empty promises to "crack down" on asylum and immigration.

1800 –1900 Panel Session. Iraq Irene Willis and Margaret Wright

The Green Party believes that the Iraq war was illegal. Even if the intelligence had been correct, a pre-emptive strike is not sanctioned under international law.

1900 – 2000 PFI and council housing. David Byrn

The Green Party does not see PFI as in the public interest. The Private Finance Initiative (PFI) really constitutes privatisation by stealth. The intention behind PFI is to subject public services to attract inward investment by cutting costs.

Saturday 5th March

1300 - 1400 Findings of the 9/11 commission report. Shahrar Ali.

1300 - 1400 Green economics – discussion. Miriam Kennett

1400 Climate Change. Presentation by David Ballard. New Academy of Business, Associate.

1800 - 1900 Climate Change. Setting up a local action group. Leila Kiersch

1800 - 1900 Make-poverty-history. Eddie Clarke

The Green Party is supporting the campaign of over 200 NGOs to "Make Poverty History".

1900 -2000 Trade Union Group Meeting. Peter Murry

Sunday 6th March

1200 – 1300 What the papers say. Politics of the day, discussion. Shahrar Ali.

1300 -1400 Peak Oil – What it is and why we need to act now. Stephen Watson and James Howard of PowerSwitch