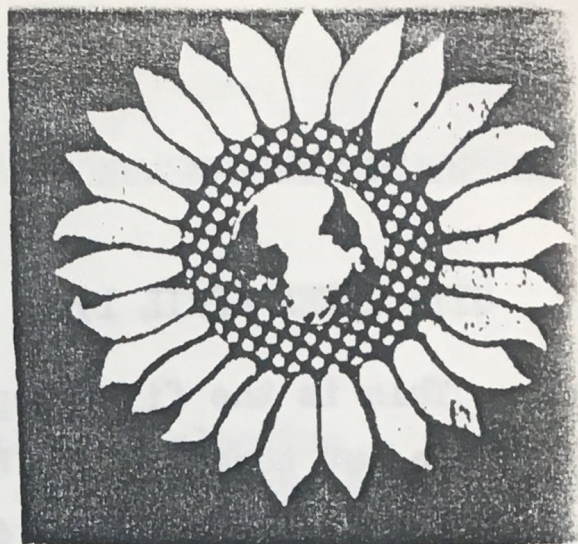


city green



Newsletter of
MANCHESTER
GREEN PARTY

**ELECTION
SPECIAL**

**April
1990**

CITY GREEN APRIL 1990

This is the first copy of City Green edited by me. It's been put together in a bit of a hurry.

I would like to see it develop as a source of information in the Manchester Green Party (MGP) so that we can get to know better what's going on, what to campaign on, and so that we're not working in isolation of each other.

Send me anything you want published in its pages. There is a large diversity of people who are members of the MGP. I've met a lot at business meetings since I joined in July 1989. But I'm sure there's room for us to get to know each other better.

Waiting in anticipation of your communications (sorry, no FAX!)

David Barnes
16 Beard Road
Gorton, M18 7GL
061 220 8892

PS - I'm not afraid of criticism either, so let it all roll in!

Forthcoming features:-

YOU CAN ADVERTISE in CITY GREEN
Whole page £3; Half page £1.50
Quarter page 75p

The local membership scheme
Being Green in Manchester
Fund Raising Ideas
Letters to the Editor

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FUND RAISING

At the recent faith supper to launch the MGP election campaign, the secretary of the party, Juliet Denham, highlighted the difficult (to say the least) financial situation of the party.

Having agreed to target 7 wards in the forthcoming local elections, ie. Sharston, Crumpsall, Chorlton, Levenshulme, Longsight, Hulme and Fallowfield/Rusholme (student leaflet), the cost for leafletting came to £800 plus leaving a potential deficit of over £400.

Nevertheless, a business decision was taken at this meeting to press ahead with this plan and over £200 was immediately committed by the members present in donations and loans. This has reduced the deficit but the party needs more.

This is not an apology for making such a request once again because Green Party politics is about COMMITMENT. So

So, here is the request.

THE PARTY NEEDS MORE MONEY

You can either:-

1. Donate some money
2. Loan some money
3. Do some fund raising
4. Provide grants in kind; eg. the printing or photocopying of leaflets

Once these local elections are out of the way fund raising will begin to raise deposits for General Election candidates.

THE JUMBLE SALE

Organised by Kath and Peter Thompson, this was a great success and they wish to thank everyone who helped, especially Phil who put in a great leafletting effort on a wet and miserable day.

FULL SLATE

The MGP looks likely to have a full slate of 33 candidates for the local elections on 3rd May. This is a party to be proud of so GO FOR IT.

ELECTION CAMPAIGN NEWS

THE POLL TAX
THE POLL TAX
THE POLL TAX

The Tory View on the
Poll Tax:-

Councillor Mike Beaugeard,
Brooklands ward (letter to
Manchester Evening News,
22.3.90)

£425

This figure includes £76 per person 'safety
net' payment to local authorities in Tory
marginals

"I am prepared to concede that
people should pay according to
their means. But on one condition
.... that people should be
allowed to vote in local elec-
tions in proportion to the con-
tributions they make to the pro-
vision of local services."

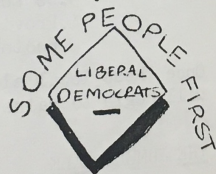
The Labour controlled City Council has leaked the idea that so-
called 'Poll Tax Dodgers' will add £22.58 per person to the poll
tax bill (Metro News 23.2.90).

For some perspective on this matter, in 1987 each taxpayer
contributed on average EACH WEEK £14.52 to Ministry of Defence
spending.

£397 was what the Liberal Democrats
in the city have pushed for. This
figure would be achieved by "improving
efficiency and scrapping Labour's
pet schemes" (GortonLD Focus Special
Edition).

In fact many of these 'pet schemes'
offer valuable resistance to the exploitation of women, the low
paid and people from ethnic minorities.

NEXT YEAR. There is some vague promise by the Tories that next
years Poll Tax burden will be lighter. This is unlikely in
Manchester because from next financial year the council will be
unable to raise loans on the basis of rent arrears (£80m)

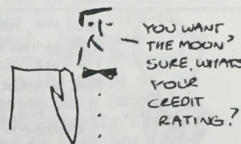


THE POLL TAX
THE POLL TAX
THE POLL TAX



CUTSCUTSCUTSCUTSCUTSCUTS.....etc

Because of the poll tax
Manchester City Council is
going to make cuts in
services of £40m over 2
years.



TORY CANVASSING - AKA
ESTATE AGENT

Under threat of cuts:-

3000 jobs.

Varley Street laundry, Miles
Platting despite a recent
£16,000 modernisation.

Parrs Wood rural studies centre
'saving' £170,000 per year

£15m worth of education centres
Moston centre, Abraham Moss
centre, East Manchester centre,
Gorton.

John Major's recent Budget was promoting the concept that
increased savings lead to increased investment.

Poll Tax cuts suggest that 'savings' are to be at the expense
of the poor
and investment for the benefit of the rich

OVER TO THE AIRPORT

A £7.5m combined heat and power station, run on a
mixture of natural gas and gas oil is being built as part of
the Terminal 2 development due for completion at Ringway in
1993. This will help keep tourists warm in the adjoining
Sheraton luxury hotel

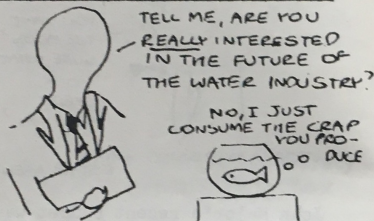
and A 'multi million' pound 1½ mile rail link to the
airport is to be built so that tourists can avoid the incon-
venience of travelling by bus on congested roads.

THE GREEN PARTY ALTERNATIVE TO THE POLL TAX is two pronged:-

1. A local income tax based on the ability to pay. We would seek the support of the people of Manchester for this by a referendum.
2. The Community Ground Rent. This would ensure that any profit made from the sale or change of land use would accrue to the community as a whole rather than, as at present, to a single person or group of people living outside the locality.

Water

The North west region has a new 'water watchdog', Sir Anthony Goldstone, chair of the North West Customer Service Committee (CSC). This body will identify the needs of customers, investigate complaints and compile reports on relevant issues. Sir Anthony is reported as saying that the CSC will comprise of people 'genuinely interested' in the future of the water industry (Metro News, 2.3.90). The city council has appointed Councillor Arnold Spencer as its representative on the CSC.



Local Government Environmental Charter

I seem to recall seeing the leader of the city council on TV making some commitment to the Friends of the Earth's Charter. If so then he has declared the council's commitment to develop:-

1. an Energy policy
 2. a recycling policy
 3. a strategy for monitoring and minimising pollution
 4. transport and planning policies
 5. an environmental protection and enhancement strategy
 6. a health strategy.
- More on this in the next issue.

Pollution

A FOE survey in 1989 found that the levels of nitrogen dioxide monitored on Oxford Road, Manchester were 49 micrograms per cubic metre above the EEC legal limit of 200. (Metro News 10.11.89)

LOCAL DEMOCRACY

Manchester has no democratic structure beneath the city council which represents up to $\frac{1}{2}$ million people. Rural areas in England have parish councils representing as few as 10,000 people.

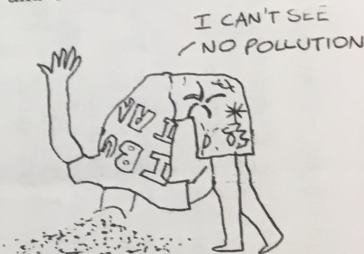
The Labour Party has no commitment to real democracy and in Manchester even connives in the loss of democracy. For example, the City Council's representation on the board of the Manchester Ship Canal has been cut recently from 11 members to just one. The Labour council leader, Graham Stringer (the one member?) is reported (Metro News 2.2.90) as saying that this is good news:-

"By reducing our representatives from 11 to one we will now be able to benefit from this historic investment". The city council continues to own 49% of, and is injecting £3m into, the joint company. Control will now be vested in the shareholders.

So now any new development on the canal will be done with the prime motive of profit to people who don't live in the locality.

The Manchester Green Party will work 'to create a system of local government that gives citizens themselves the power to promote and determine laws and policy' (Manifesto for a Green Manchester)

To achieve this, COMMUNITY FORUMS, or Neighbourhood Councils, will be set up, initially in an advisory role working with members and officers of the council.



The Labour Party and Property Speculation.

Recently an article in the newsletter of the Manchester Wildlife Trust lamented the trend towards business parks in south Manchester. Councillor Arnold Spencer responded as follows:-

"employment growth in the City ... can only be realised when market circumstances are such that people are willing to undertake development". (subtext - when people are able to make huge profits)

DIARY DATES

APRIL

Wed 11th Business Meeting 8pm, 72 Milwain Rd, Levenshulme.
Sat 21st Green Party stall at Chernobyl Anniversary event, 11 - 5, Manchester Town Hall
Sun 22nd Earth Day - keep a look out for whatever might be happening.
Mon 23rd Public Meeting 'Policies for a Green Manchester' 8pm, Manchester Town Hall
Wed 25th Pre-election Business Meeting, 8pm, 17 Crompton Road, Levenshulme
Sat 28th Ecology Day, Manchester Town Hall - Ecology Building Society AGM and Open Day with the Ethical Consumer road show.

MAY

Thurs 3rd POLLING DAY!!! Party at Mike's, 5 Old Lansdowne Rd, Didsbury after the count (11.30-ish).
Wed 16th Business Meeting, 8pm, 17 Crompton Rd, Levenshulme.
Wed 30th Business Meeting, 8pm, Flat 7, 52 Daisy Bank Road, Victoria Park - Bring a mug!

CONTACTS

Secretary Juliet Denham, 72 Birch Lane, Longsight 225-4077
Treasurer Mike Daw, 5 Old Lansdowne Road, Didsbury, 448-1709
Press Officer/Materials Kath/Pete Thompson, 224 8527

NORTHWEST AREA NEWS

Diary of Events

NW area conferences:
16/17 June

13/14 October (AGM)

NW Area posts

Deadlines for postal ballot:-

Request nominations:

14th July

Return of nominations:

1st September

Ballot papers sent out:

22nd September

Ballot papers returned:

6th October

NW Area Management

Committee Meetings:

16th May; 25th July (to be confirmed); 19th September (or 1 week earlier if it clashes with Wolverhampton III)

Green Party Council

Meetings (Agenda deadlines in brackets)

21/22 April in Manchester (31/3);

21/22 July in B'ham or London (30/6);

20/21 October (29/9)

Names and addresses of NW Area Officers.

Co-ordinator: (co-opted)

Tony Cartwright, Social Work Dept., Whittingham Hospital, Whittingham, Goosnargh, Preston PR3 2JH. Tel. 0772-865531 x 378

Treasurer: (co-opted)

Roland Powell, 9 Lower Dolphinholme, Dolphinholme, Lancaster, Lancs. Tel. 0524-792096

Elections Co-ordinator:

Chris White, 53 Norman Road, Runcorn, Cheshire WA7 5PW. Tel 09285-72553

Membership Secretary:

Bruce Bingham, 61 Olier Av., M/cr M12 5SW. Tel. 061- 256 1838

Press Officer:

Mike Rowles, 11 Higher Noon Sun, Birch Vale, Derbyshire SK12 5AF Tel. 0663-42031

Committee Member:

Ray Georgeson, 'The Willows', 39 Olive Mount, Tranmere, Birkenhead, Wirral L41 9DP. Tel. 051-647 4976

Committee Member:

Halldóra Ingham, 33 Manor Av., Fulwood, Preston, Lancs PR2 4DN Tel. 0772-700341

Committee Member:

Philip Pawley, 'Strathnaver', High Lane, Ormskirk, Lancs L40 7SL Tel. 0695-574069

Joint Representatives on GPC:

Halldóra Ingham (see above) and Mike Shipley, Noon Sun Cottage, Sycamore Road, Birch Vale Derbyshire SK12 5AG. Tel. 0663-43120

HEALTH HEALTH HEALTH HEALTH HEALTH HEALTH HEALTH
HEALTH HEALTH HEALTH HEALTH HEALTH HEALTH HEALTH

The Green Party accepts as an important principle that health care should be provided without payment and funded by taxation. (Manifesto for a Sustainable Society, 1989)

The long term aim of the Green Party is to radically restructure the NHS in order to establish decentralised, community based, democratically accountable health services which allow for local variation and minimise dependence on expensive, high technology, hospital-based medicine, developing a 'promotion of health service' instead of the present 'repair service' (Ditto)

The Conservative Government has promoted Privatisation, Centralisation, high technology and unaccountability:-

Manchester Royal Infirmary

has a new £28m regional health care facility with 280 beds and 10 operating theatres (Metro News 16.3.90). Money for this will have come from the closure of local hospitals. Patient stress is increased by distance from home and equality of provision is undermined by high transport costs.

Withington's Christie Hospital

is likely to 'opt out' and go for independent trust status because that way it will attract more funds from central government for its regional cancer treatment role whereas South Manchester Health Authority, presently managing it, has been starved of funds (Metro News, 23.3.90). Independent trust status is an obvious first step towards privatisation and a service based on the ability to pay rather than need.



Booth Hall Childrens Hosp. is appealing for £3m for its Accident & Emergency service. Appeal organiser, Steve Watts said "skipping, skating, eating, keeping quiet - anything that brings in the money is allowed" (Metro News 2.2.90)

TRANSPORT TRANSPORT TRANSPORT TRANSPORT

The 'MANIFESTO for a GREEN MANCHESTER' published by the Manchester Green Party contains an impressive programme of positive policies for transport in Manchester. Contact Paul Harrison for a copy (price 60p - £1, depending on what you can afford). Paul can be contacted on 061 226 6683.

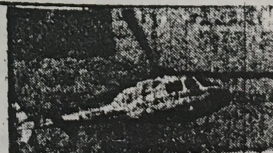
"In the longer term, the Green Party would like to see a trend towards sustainable, smaller communities so that people become less reliant on private cars to get to and from work and the services they need"

TOWN HALL staff in Manchester are being offered cash incentives to get on their bikes.

Those employees who need transport for their jobs will be allowed to borrow up to £200 towards buying a bike, lights and panner bags.

And the cyclists will be able to claim expenses for council business - just like their motoring counterparts.

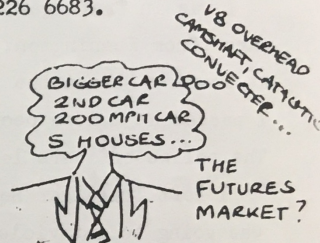
policy.



Nuisance - the police helicopter.

-practising hovering over the environs of a Metrolink stn.

New Police Transport. £1m 'Squirrel' helicopter for use in high speed car chases. (Metro, 8.12.90). Openshaw and Gorton residents complain about its noise (M, 9.3.90). Police propose £200,000 permanent base at Openshaw as a solution.



In the shorter term we will seek to promote the use of cycles and public transport rather than cars. See the manifesto for the detailed proposals.

In the meantime we have to confront a lot of prejudice against the expansion of quality public transport

eg. Chief Constable James Anderton believes that Metrolink stations will attract "an increased level of crime and disorder to the environs quite apart from the incidents at the stations themselves" (Metro 9.2.90)

COMMENT

I am not a violent person. I hope I am a pacifist. Therefore I cannot condone the violence at the Anti-Poll Tax demonstration in London on 31st March 1990. But I know where the anger was coming from.

I was in Trafalgar Square until 3.15pm and had enjoyed the march from Kennington; it was good natured and optimistic. At Downing Street the tension noticeably increased and when I passed at 2.15pm people were already refusing to 'move on'. The police officers looked isolated.

I left Trafalgar Square because I had asked myself if it was going to get violent and I had answered yes to this. I knew that I felt angry and I knew that I could get caught up in the violent emotions so I took myself away from it. Walking through Regent Street I felt sick at the casual display of ostentatious wealth.

I do think the violence had some element of motivation to it. It almost seemed as if there was a private argument between the 'Anarchists' and the Police with some old scores to settle. I've no doubt that people who do not conform to this society's strict code of conventions have felt the anger and, yes, violence of the police motivated by land greedy types not wanting 'their' land violated. I support challenges to this greed. That is why I am in the Green Party.

It is therefore not simply a private argument. It is an argument about Greed and the way that the Greedy take resources and turn them into private gains, depriving the

public of access to them. In Trafalgar Square, the vanguard of the private, the Police (however much they want sincerely to be neutral they cannot be because they are situated in an oppressive structure) and the vanguard of the public, or common ownership, the 'Anarchists', clashed and the violence that had previously either been hidden from public scrutiny or had been channeled into the oppression of the poor, was made very public.

I cannot condone violence. That is why I am working to rid the world of the insidious violence that is named Greed and Poverty.

"I don't go to the river any more, or over bridges. Or on the subway, although there's a station right there. We're not allowed on, there are Guardians now, there's no official reason for us to go down those steps, ride on the trains under the river, into the main city. Why would we want to go from here to there? We would be up to no good and they would know it"

The Handmaids Tale. Margaret Atwood

