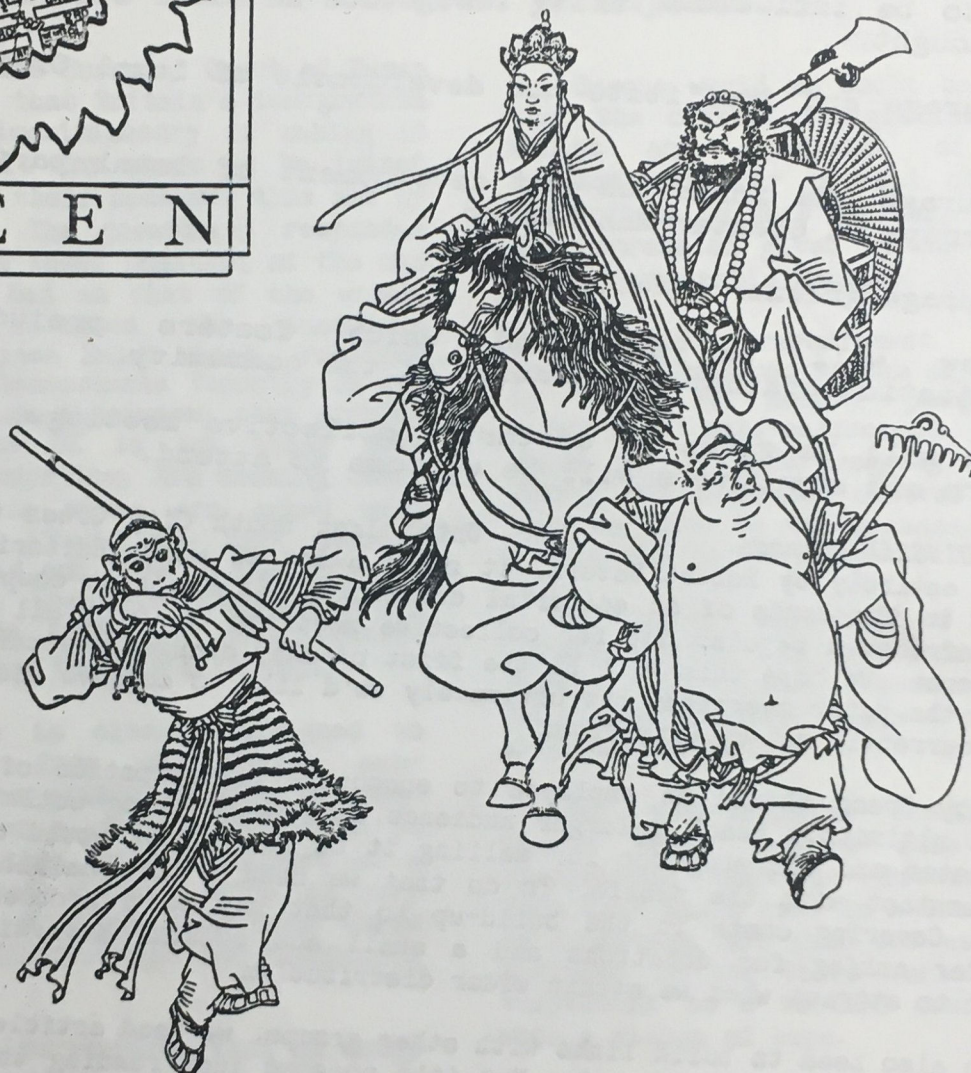


The monthly newsletter of South Manchester Green Party

Supplied free to members. Three issues will be sent free to non-members, after which an annual subscription costs £2. Please contact the Membership Secretary whose address is listed on the back page.

The editors welcome articles for publication as long as they are consistent with editorial policy: see p2.

August 1987



NEW EDITORIAL TEAM
HITS TOWN page 2

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

Green immigration policy - is there one?

page 3

Briefing on PWRs

page 4

E D S I E O R I A

The local party meeting on 15th July approved the following editorial policy for CITY GREEN:

To promote the ideals of a Green society, to inform of relevant events and ideas and to act as a forum for any group or individual who in the view of the editorial collective is/are likely to be influenced by or contribute to the development of Green thought.

To encourage and facilitate the development of local Green party policy.

To encourage the formation and development of local parties and Green groups in Greater Manchester.

To encourage greener lifestyles.

No view will be expressed which fosters prejudice or discrimination against any section of the community.

Notice will be given of editorial collective meetings, which all members and supporters will be welcome to attend.

BRUCE BINGHAM expands....

Until last month City Green was produced almost entirely by Robert Waters. It meant a lot of work. Editorial "control" is now in the hands of an editorial collective. In the next couple of months we'll arrange a regular day for collective meetings to which all members will be welcome. We hope this will be the first of many changes. We can't expect to change the paper overnight but ultimately we'd like to achieve wider aims than those currently set by City Green.

City Green should be employed to encourage participation of readers and should ultimately reach a larger audience. That means using outlets throughout Manchester and charging for it. Selling it on the street would also bring us into contact with the public. To do that we need a more saleable, "dynamic" paper. Covering costs in the build-up to that may be a problem so we must consider asking for donations and a small ad column. Advertising will be easier to attract when we attain wider distribution.

We also need to build links with other groups. We need articles by or about co-ops, FOE, peace groups, etc. But it's no good just reading the paper if it doesn't have any effect on us. We've got to stimulate discussion, question ourselves and meet other people. Do you know other readers in your area? Could you be involved in 'Green' activities with them in your neighbourhood? The answers are probably 'no' and 'yes' respectively.

'Getting active' isn't difficult provided you're not left to do it all yourself. We could do with more activists and you'll find it enjoyable. As well as meeting new friends and building relationships you'll find a new dimension to life which far surpasses watching Eastenders.

If that sounds too much we all have ideas that we often don't share. Voice them through the paper. Things always seem too much on their own but they won't be if more people are thinking about them. Write an article or a letter, turn up to a meeting. It doesn't matter if you think you can't write well or speak in public - IT'S IDEAS THAT COUNT - LET'S HAVE THEM.

We've got to start building for 1991 now!



The Government 'promised' new stricter immigration laws in the recent Queen's Speech. Will the Green Party be able to respond to the debate with a clear statement of its policies and explain how they are based on ecological principles?

In 1985 the European Court of Human Rights found that Britain's immigration laws were discriminatory in making it more difficult for women to be joined in the UK by their husbands than men by their wives. The government responded by making the legal position of the men involved as bad as that of the women, and have retained the insidious "Primary Purpose Rule" which requires a couple to demonstrate (usually on the strength of one interview) that gaining entry to the UK is not their main reason for marrying. Men seeking entry to join their wives are asked such questions as 'Would you have married her if she did not live in the UK?' and 'Why are you breaking with custom by going to live with your wife, rather than her coming to live with you?'

The rule is clearly designed to prevent men from the Indian sub-continent from coming to this country. It puts an onus on the applicant to prove a negative on the subject of a deeply personal matter, often in very unfavourable circumstances made worse by language difficulties and inaccurate interpreting.

The law also requires that on entry to the UK a couple must be able to support and accommodate themselves without recourse to public funds. This gives rise to the Catch-22 whereby in attempting to satisfy Entry Clearance Officers that they can meet this requirement people paint a sanguine picture of their prospects from which the immigration authorities can deduce without difficulty that the main reason for wishing to enter the UK is not marriage, but economic advancement.

Greens would no doubt be unanimous that the current immigration laws are racist and a denial of personal freedom. But our overall attitude to immigration is very unclear, or such is the impression given by the Manifesto for a Sustainable Society. It states:

The main requirement of an ecologically-sound system of government is that it should permit small, relatively self-sufficient population units to be self-managing. Decision-making and financial control should be kept as near to the personal level as possible... (AD100), and:

...the civil liberties of Britain's people should be protected without regard to race, colour, creed, political belief, sex or sexual orientation. (RS101)

For self-managing communities to remain small implies some form of immigration control. Precisely what form this would take in a Green society is important not just for us, but for millions in the Third World for whom emigration to a Western country might seem a vision of hope.

The issue encompasses not only hardship to individuals, but also Third World perceptions of Western attitudes and ultimately questions of global power relations. We should also consider whether race/racism is to be treated alongside immigration, or as a separate issue (or to put it another way, one Policy Working Group or two?)

⇒ More information on the campaign against the Primary Purpose Rule from the Immigration Widows Campaign, 131/2 Upper Street London N1 1QP: 01-354 0133

CITY GREEN BRIEFING* CITY GREEN BRIEFING* CITY GREEN BRIEFING* CITY GREEN BRIEFING

The first of a series. With these facts at your fingertips you can face down NIREX executives at public meetings. Drop a few casually into conversations and you'll be the envy of all your former friends and will have the whole pub to yourself.

In the wake of the infamous Sizewell 'B' enquiry, slightly adapted from an original press release by Jim Harris, here are some facts and figures about nuclear power and in particular Pressurised Water-cooled nuclear Reactors (PWRs), in the format of a Socratic dialogue with a suitably ingenuous stooge:

If we didn't have nuclear power wouldn't the lights go out?

Nuclear power represents only 15 per cent of the electricity generated by the Central Electricity Generating Board (CEGB). On the coldest winter day, in the coldest year, the CEGB's net generating capacity exceeds demand by 26 per cent. We do not need such a huge planning margin. We could begin shutting down our nuclear power stations tomorrow without having to turn any lights off.

Isn't nuclear power cheaper than other forms of electricity?

The CEGB's own figures show the price of coal has been falling in real terms. The five year agreement signed with the NCB in June 1986 means that it will continue to fall. Between 1981 and 1985 the coal costs for the typical power station in the Midlands fell by 5.4 per cent. The CEGB's case for building a PWR was based on evidence which predicted rapidly increasing coal costs.

But what about France? Nuclear power is so cheap there that it provides 64 per cent of all power and has been so successful that France now exports electricity.

Electricite de France (EdF) is £20,000 million in debt because of its nuclear programme - a programme so costly that it has to export energy to meet the £3 billion loan repayments it must make every year. The French electricity system is now uniquely vulnerable to a nuclear accident. A serious accident in one French nuclear station could require the shut-down of all the others for checks or modifications, blacking out 75 per cent of France's electricity. France has been lucky so far, but such dependence on nuclear power is a disaster waiting to happen.

Hasn't the PWR design been so successful that there are now over 100 operating worldwide, and more being built?

In the United States no public electricity authority has ordered a PWR since 1978 and every order after 1973 has been cancelled. They simply are not economical. Since no-one in the USA wants to buy this out-dated technology why is the CEGB even considering importing it?

PWRs are safe, aren't they?

The Chernobyl reactor was water cooled; the Three Mile Island reactor was water cooled. After Chernobyl, Lord Marshall claimed an accident of that nature could never happen in this country because we do not use water as a moderator. The proposed Sizewell B reactor, like Three Mile Island and other PWRs, will use water as both moderator and coolant. The water in the Westinghouse PWR is at a pressure 120 times greater than that of the atmosphere. Loss of pressure can cause this water to turn to steam which interacts with the zirconium alloy fuel cladding, producing hydrogen. It was the creation of such a hydrogen bubble which contributed to both the TMI and Chernobyl accidents. At Chernobyl it was probably the hydrogen explosion which ignited the graphite part of the core. In an accident where there is a serious loss of coolant in a PWR it only takes 15 minutes for the fuel to "melt"; in an Advanced Gas Cooled Reactor it takes 15 hours.

My mate's Dad said he read in the Daily Mail that Chernobyl could never happen in this country because the Russian design is inferior and their safety standards are not as strict.

its CO₂ coolant in yet another of the "incidents" which we are constantly assured are of "no danger to the public"! Suggest to your mate that his Dad buys a dictionary of social workers' jargon and a subscription to the Grauniad.

The Government says it has explored all the alternatives to nuclear power, and building a PWR is the best way to meet our energy needs.

No matter how strict the safety standards, all human experience points to the fact that, sooner or later, ACCIDENTS WILL HAPPEN. The US space shuttle had strict safety standards, and the Russians no doubt believed that Chernobyl was operated according to strict safety standards. In Britain we had the reactor fire at Windscale in 1957, and the subsequent record of Windscale-Sellafield does not inspire confidence. Only one month before the Chernobyl accident, the Trawsfynydd nuclear power station in mid-Wales lost 10 per cent of

Last year the Government spent about £300 million on research and development (R&D) into nuclear power generation and only £40 million on all the alternatives. Nuclear power provides 15 per cent of all electricity and only 2.3 per cent of all energy. But the Government last year spent 80.5 per cent of its Energy R&D budget on nuclear research. Put another way, the Government spent 19.5 per cent of the R&D budget on all the other 97.7 per cent of ways of producing energy. The Government isn't seriously exploring alternatives.

The Government and the CEGB are interested in promoting conservation of energy though, judging by all the campaigns they have. Both

Last year the Government spent virtually nothing on energy conservation R&D. The more electricity the CEGB sells, the higher its profits are. The Board is interested in maximizing profit. Currently the CEGB is promoting using electricity for space and water heating. gas and solid fuel are more energy-efficient for these purposes, since the fuel is used directly where it is needed: except for CHP - Combined Heat and Power - systems all forms of generation waste 50% - 75% of the heat energy used to create the electricity.

But how much energy could conservation actually save?

A Harvard Business School Study in 1979 identified conservation as having the potential to reduce energy usage by 42 per cent in the United States.

OK, smartass, I was just lobbing you a few underarms for starters. Wait till next time! (What our callow interrogator is telling us is that this briefing is continued in the next CITY GREEN - Eds.)



The jumble sale held at Withington Community Centre on 11th July made a profit of approximately £130. A noticeably relieved treasurer would like to thank everyone who helped.

The by-elections at Gorton South and Northenden have been called for Thursday August 20th. Our candidates are respectively PAUL REEVES and JUNE BUCHAN. Help with both campaigns urgently needed: contact Colin Kirby (see back page)

A reminder to all members who have not yet returned their questionnaires. Please do so without delay for the sake of what remains of Brian's post-jumble sale serenity.

Next business meeting - 12th August 1987 7.45 p.m.
at Flat 1, 16-18 Whalley Road Manchester 16

20th August 1987 - Gorton South and Northenden
council by-elections. See page 5.

CONFERENCE TIME AGAIN:

18-20 September 1987 - National AGM at Aston
University Birmingham. Early warning in case you
want to take second agenda along for light holiday
reading. Preliminary booking forms available from
Colin Kirby.

29 September 1987 - Local party AGM, provisionally
at 21 Ballbrook Avenue, West Didsbury, 7.45 p.m.
Agenda items to the Secretary, please. Full Agenda
in next month's CITY GREEN.

17-18 October 1987 - North West Area AGM at the
Irish Centre in Liverpool. Full details are
promised in GreenScene due out in mid-August.

IN NEXT ISSUE OF CITY GREEN

INTERARMS. We blow the lid off the largest small
arms store in Europe (or maybe the World), right
here in Manchester.

ALSO a letters column, for which we couldn't find
space in this issue. Always supposing somebody
writes to us.....

to:

Mr Alain Kahan
201 Slade Lane
Levenshulme
MANCHESTER M19 2AE

Secretary Anna Carder
26 Provis Road, Chorlton M21
tel 861 0889

Membership Rod Riesco
25 Danesmoor Rd, West
Didsbury M20 tel 434 2361

Treasurer Brian Candeland
28 Tintern Ave, West Didsbury
M20 tel 434 7116

Paper Collection Sian Roberts
63 Central Rd, West Didsbury
M20 tel 445 2788

Elections Co-ordinator
Colin Kirby
Flat 1, 16-18 Whalley Road
M16

Meetings Organiser
Mike Abberton
Room 29, Newman Block,
Allen Hall, Oxford Rd M14

City Green Editorial Group
c/o Bruce Bingham
9 Whalley Grove M16

Design
Robert Waters

*With many thanks to
Rod Riesco for help and
patience in an
emergency!*

If you would like to join the
Green Party in its fight for
a sustainable, cooperative and
just society please send your
cheque/p.o. (payable to South
Manchester Green Party) to the
Membership Secretary above.

MEMBERSHIP RATES

Low/Unwaged	£5.00
Low/Unwaged (Joint)	£8.00
Standard	£10.00
Standard (Joint)	£15.00

the green party