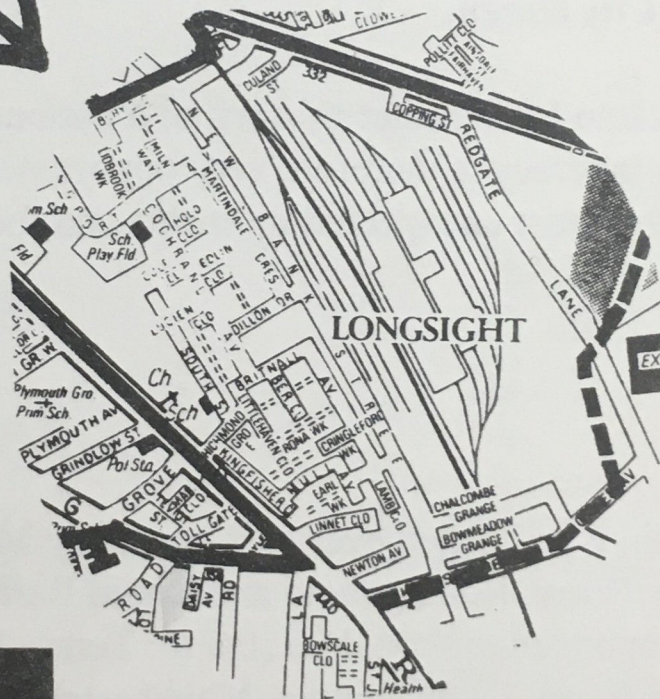
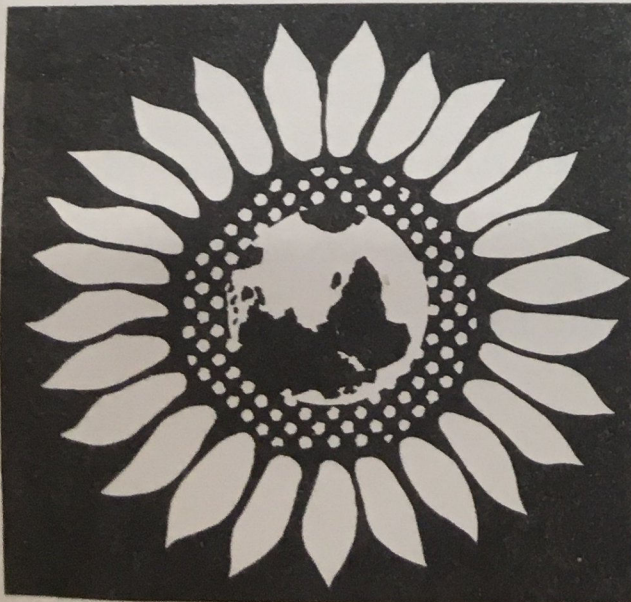


C.I.T.Y. GREEN

A TWIG →



MARCH
1991



CITY GREEN March 1991

The Gulf War is over?

How is it possible to build peace? Perhaps if we had real democracy here in Manchester it might go a little way towards preventing 'our government' railroading public opinion into sanctioning the expenditure of billions on a killing machine.

Democracy begins at the grass roots level, through local tenants groups, and school governing bodies to give two examples described in recent issues of *City Green*.

The launch in Manchester in April of a national Green Party campaign on Direct Democracy is therefore very opportune. Opportunities for change come at the most unexpected moments and the end? of a war is one such moment.

Peace.

City Green is published every six weeks by Manchester Green Party and is edited by Teresa Romagnuolo and David Barnes.

All correspondence should be sent to: Teresa Romagnuolo, 1021a Stockport Road, Levenshulme, Manchester.

Copy date for the next edition is 12th April 1991. Any material received after this date cannot be guaranteed inclusion.

Printed by Archprinters, Mosley Road, Trafford Park.

Local Election Fever

We are presently selecting candidates for the forthcoming local elections in early May. Anyone who has not been contacted but feels that they would like to be a candidate should contact, or leave a message at one of the numbers below.

If you think you'd like to stand in the elections don't be put off by the thought that TV cameras will be hounding you or that you'll have to make long speeches. You'll probably have to make a short statement to the press, but the Party will be there if you feel you need any help.

Many of us have jumped in at the deep end at elections and we all survived. Most of us found it good fun and an interesting experience. As a Party our vote is growing and so is respect from the other parties.

If you're keen to take part in any capacity, then contact the Election Team: Bruce Bingham
Brian Candeland
Phil Boast

Questionnaire Results

Well I had planned to have statistics ready to divulge why women don't attend many business meetings, but due to unforeseen circumstances, (ie. only 2 fully completed questionnaires have been returned to me.) there are no results to give. There is, however, still time for you to complete it and return it to me before the next issue.

Green Materials List

The enclosed list gives details of just a few materials that MGP has available to anyone interested in gaining more information about specific Green Party policies, a broader knowledge of Green perspectives or just general Green issues.

If you are interested in obtaining any of the materials on the list, then contact Peter Thompson.

Green Materials List

Policy Pointers : 10 Good reasons to vote Green
5p each

Green Party - Policies for life
Domestic Recycling
Population
Nuclear Power
Food
Acid Rain
Global Warming
Pollution
Ozone Depletion
Animal Rights

CONTACT: Peter Thompson
17 Crompton Rd
Levenshulme
M19
224 8527

European Election Statements :
5p each

Food
European Confederations
The EC, Pollution, Global Warming
Global Justice
Toxic Waste
The Marine Environment
East/West Relations
1992 - The Single European Market

Posters :
Vote Green
Politics for Life

Booklets :
Beyond Green Consumerism (FoE) #1.50
Ecotrader Catalogue
General Election Manifesto, 1987 #2.00
Manifesto for a Sustainable Society, 1989

Books :
The Green Consumer Guide - by J. Elkington & J. Hailes
The Coming of The Greens - by J. Porritt & D. Winner

Newspapers :
Econews
30p

Stickers :
from 30p
Green Party
Animal Liberation
Liberate the Earth
Acid Rain Kills
Conservation is Survival

Car Stickers :
No Poll Tax
I'm Driving Lead Free

Badges :
from 30p
I'm Voting Green
Think Green
Green Party
Stop Nuclear Power, Stop Cars
No Poll Tax
Live Simply
Conservation is Survival

CITY GREEN REVIEW

The Green Budget. Edit. David Kemball-Cook, Mallen Baker & Chris Mattingly (Green Print Merlin Press £5.99).

I enjoyed reading this book after initial doubts. It's succinct, easy to read and understandable even by non-economists like myself.

It provides explanations of words often heard, eg. *sustainable economy*, *environmental taxation*, but rarely really understood.

It gives practical proposals for down to earth economics- ideas on how to counter the view that green politics is only about the environment in the narrowest sense. It shows a new approach to UK economic policy, including :-

1. Protecting the needs of the planet - a carbon tax on all fossil fuels and petrol duty increased. £2 bn per annum put into energy conservation and renewables.

2. Guaranteeing economic security - child benefit and basic tax allowance both up 50% -

- basic income for all by 1995
- controls on bank lending and personal credit
- support for farm incomes not food mountains.

3. Localising the economy
- devolving power to reformed local government
- poll tax replaced by locally agreed taxation
- community banking
- real support for small local businesses.

There is a useful summary of ideas in the final chapter (for greens in a hurry!) and boxed 'medium term proposals' at the end of each section suggesting a practical way forward.

All in all it is a clear and refreshing presentation of ideas and made me feel much more optimistic about the possible future. I recommend anyone interested in the practical realities of a Green future to read it. **Mary Candeland**

RECYCLING COMMUNITIES

Since timebegan, as the saying goes, the human animal has lived in communities but nowadays those patterns of life are rapidly disintegrating. The Green Party recognises the need to preserve local communities as the basic unit of a 'Green' society - both policies of an ecological nature and those on local democracy proceed from this point.

A former member of the party, John Poole, is seeking to practice what we are preaching by restimulating the Withington Community Association of which he is vice chair. He sees the community as vital to the wellbeing of every individual. There have been meetings to attract interest in increasing the use of the community centre in Burton Road. A garden section has been formed which will produce ideas and obtain funding to create a beautiful community garden in the grounds. An environmental education group for kids is planned. There may be theatre groups, hobby classes, a drop-in centre for various age groups. All good stuff if you live in Withington.

In the Fallowfield and Rusholme area the Fallowfield Forum has set out to enable local groups and individuals in the area, with an interest in the community, to work together. They organised a public meeting about the governments proposed Care in the Community plans. Recently the Forum looked at the Environment and is planning a day of action on litter during Springclean Week in April. A consultation with the council planning department will give the Forum a chance to inject local concerns into the planning strategy at present being drawn up for the city. Transport is likely to be a major concern.

David Holland, of Operational Services, revealed that the City Council's Recycling Strategy had reached the Quality of the Environment Committee and would be publicly available before too long. Due to financial constraint, it will simply provide some recycling banks in each of the 33 wards. There will also be several vans to pick up materials, including fridges. By the way, Manchester lost the contest for funding as BT's 'Recycling City No. 4' and there is no potential for profit with the present paper and glass glut on the market.

The vice-chair of the Fallowfield Forum, Bernard Selby, is also a former MGP member. I'm maintaining a link between MGP and both the Withington Community Association and Fallowfield Forum. If anyone would like to know more contact me.

BERNARD EKBERY

Organised Religion Working Group

A new national policy working group has been set up. It will cover the area of organised religion, with a particular interest in Fundamentalism. We need to address issues such as Islamic Fundamentalism (The Rushdie affair / The Gulf) and the recent movement within Christian Fundamentalism which attaches the Freedom of Belief of Pagans, Wiccans and New Age spirituality.

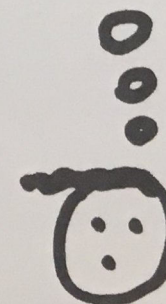
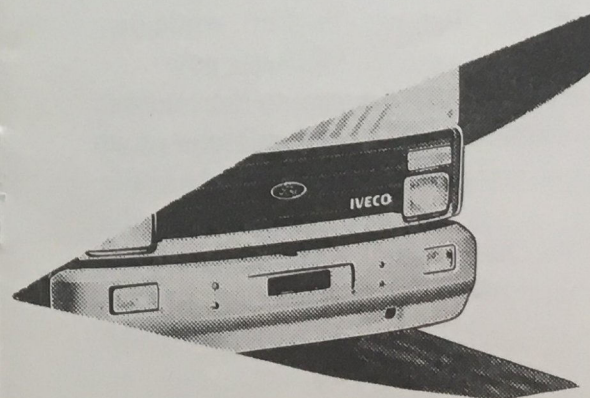
The last conference passed policy to abolish the blasphemy law, and the concept of disestablishment of the church from the state is being considered. The Green vision is of a tolerant, multi-cultural society.

Green Party members are openly invited to either take part in the policy-making process by joining this working group, or to subscribe to the newsletter.

Contact: Sue Jump (Convenor)
17 Basil St.,
Colne,
Lancs. BB8 0EY
Tel: (Home) 0282 864569

CUTS EMISSIONS. Cargo-Q is also more ecological.

.....**THAN ME,
OR A TREE!?**



PEACE NOW.

The last time I was in Hyde Park was in the summer of 1969 (or was it 1970?) for a free Pink Floyd concert. They played 'Atom Heart Mother' Those days of Love and Peace seemed suitable memories to mentally refer to when I attended the last London Peace Rally on Candlemas day (Feb 2) in Hyde Park.

The Green Party believes that conflict should be resolved by peaceful means, and was the first to protest at war in the Gulf. It initiated meetings with CND and Plaid Cymru that led to the Committee to Stop War in the Gulf - which has organised the demos and statements seen in the media.

The Green Party have : supported sanctions ; called for a peace-keeping force or withdrawal of non-indigenous troops ; called for a ceasefire ; and, of course, condemned Iraq's annexation of Kuwait.

The international conference on the environmental consequences of war was a Green Party initiative, although not advertised as such. Papers on war's impact on the Lower Mesopotamian Plain and the Gulf Maritime region were circulated - even presented to the deputy president of the Iraqi Assembly in Baghdad by a UK Green Party mission, which missed the last plane home and was escaping by road to Amman incommunicado, when hostilities erupted.

In Manchester, our defence campaign turned into a Gulf peace petition. For a while it seemed confusing - there was a Greater Manchester Campaign to Stop War in the Gulf, then a Committee to Stop War in the Gulf. Freda Chapman, from High Peaks Green Party, explained that the Campaign remains the home of those who align with the Left, while the Committee is a regional version of the national one. MGP has now affiliated with the Committee and sends a voting delegate to the weekly organisational meetings. It is ably chaired by CND as an umbrella group with affiliations from a broad base of organisations opposed to the Gulf War.

Local groups against the Gulf War have started to spring up Withington, Chorlton, Gorton ... This is due to the hard work of Socialist

Worker Party activists, also keen to build a broad-based anti-war movement. Green speakers have been invited to all the meetings and demos, both local, regional and national.

Although many of the issues are familiar by now, you may wish to buy the excellent "Thicker than Oil" £1.50 - the Green perspective on the Gulf available at the One World Centre, 13 Paton St. 236 1588. For more information contact me, Bernard Ekbery 224 4188 or the One World Centre.

WAR REPORT

The war in the Gulf has sadly become reality. The long-term effects for international relations already begins to look serious. Furthermore the credibility of the United Nations is in as much danger as the anti-Saddam Hussain factions or individuals currently in the frontline - caught between the desire to rebel and the chance of waiting for a better opportunity later. It must be hell for all the troops, as well as the citizens in Iraq, and many of its neighbours.

Western governments have been of no assistance to Iraqi opposition parties and as I write, the West continues to prepare for a ground war just days ahead, date fixed.

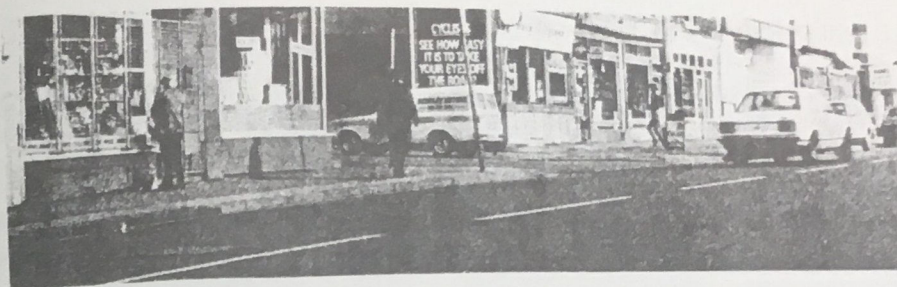
There is a lot of undiscussed hypocrisy involved in these issues and the long-term prospects are worrying if the West is not to reform some of its ideas.

For a broader perspective on the Gulf, the Green Party has prepared a booklet and a weekly alternative newspaper. "War Report" has been set up by independent journalists. Even out of date issues will be useful to anyone interested in the local situation of "anti-war facts" which you might not read in the mainstream UK press. War Report available from Green Party or One World Centre.

Bruce Bingham.

CONTACTS

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Society	Helen Murray 53 Purcell Street, Longsight	224 0976
City	Paul Harrison 96 Gretney Walk, Moss Side	226 6683
Health	Barbara Lewis 38 Belhaven Rd, Crumpsall	795 7573
Gorton PPC	Mike Daw 53 Purcell Street, Longsight	224 0976
Withington PPC	Brian Candeland 13 Devonshire Rd, Chorlton	881 0510
Wythenshawe PPC	Guy Otten 21 Ballbrook Ave, W. Didsbury	445 0219



The City Council wants people living in Manchester to know more about the main planning issues which affect the areas where they live and work. The City Planning Department is therefore producing a series of leaflets for each of the wards in the City which we hope will provide much of this information. This particular leaflet sets out the issues in Levenshulme.

THE GROWTH OF LEVENSHULME

Levenshulme grew quickly in the period 1880 and 1910 spreading out along both sides of Stockport Road. Shops opened to serve the needs of the new residents and public parks were laid out at Cringle Fields and Green Bank. More houses were built at a later date between Slade Lane and Kingsway and by the start of the Second World War the broad pattern of land use in Levenshulme had been firmly set.

The main land use is private housing although there are still large areas of open space such as at Highfield

An excerpt from one of the City Council's Planning Newsheets which are available for each ward. They cover topics such as housing, jobs, shopping, transport, recreation and environment.

Smallholdings, Cringle Fields Park and Green Bank Playing Fields. Stockport Road runs through the middle of the area and is an important part of the road network in this part of Manchester. Kingsway and Slade Lane are also important routes to the City Centre. Most of the shops in Levenshulme are to be found along Stockport Road although there are small groups of shops spread throughout the area. There are small pockets of industry at Chapel Street, near the bus depot at Lloyd Road, and at Highfield Road.

Womankind Worldwide

"We women have a vision of what change might be and what our lives should be like but we haven't been listened to."

These words were spoken by Dorianne Wilson-Smillie from Jamaica, one of Womankind's advisers.

Womankind was set up on International Womens Day two years ago with the aim of getting the voices of Third World women heard. There are five staff in London and one here at the Pankhurst Centre in Manchester.

It is now generally recognised that women's concerns have been overlooked in development programmes. It is upon women that responsibility usually lies for the health and welfare of children and other dependents. Yet most aid is channelled through male-dominated structures and women's initiatives remain unsupported. In fact many so-called development programmes have increased the burden of work for women.

Nevertheless women everywhere are organising and seeking their own solutions to their problems. Womankind is committed to backing such initiatives and has already provided support for women's groups in various countries throughout the world working on a range of different issues. Some are small new groups such as Teens in Action in Jamaica - a group of teenagers who got together after a young girl in their neighbourhood was raped and murdered. Others are more established women's organisations such as Flora Tristan and Manuela Ramos, both working in the shanty towns of Lima, Peru.

Through such organisations women are being encouraged to recognise their own health needs, to campaign for better services, and to develop income-generating activities. By getting together and discussing their needs, women are gaining more confidence and self-respect.

It is often women who are at the forefront of campaigns to develop more people-based and sustainable approaches to development. They know from direct experience that large-scale schemes so often bring them no benefits. Depletion of the natural environment has meant that poor women have to walk further and further in search of water and fuel for their families. Even most re-afforestation programmes pay scant attention to the needs of local people, planting commercial species that do nothing to restore the ability of the forest to supply a diversity of human needs. As one Indian woman put it: "You think of a tree as a piece of dead wood. For us it is living. It gives us fruit, fuel, fodder and shade. We care for a tree like our own children."

Similarly the Green Belt Movement in Kenya was started by the National Council of Women. The aim is not only to replace tree loss but also to respect the knowledge and experience of local women and provide them with new sources of income.

Manchester's Womankind group is organising a campaign to draw attention to both the enormous burden of work environmental depletion creates for local women, and also the ways in which they are seeking viable solutions to the problem. The campaign is focussing on an event in the centre of town at the end of April and we would like as many people as possible to contribute to the success of this event. (see enclosed)

Womankind is committed to not only providing support for Third World women's initiatives, but also to increasing awareness in this country of why this is necessary. Not enough is known about the contribution that women make to their countries development and the greater role they could play if given more recognition and support. Womankind is therefore producing various materials about women in Third World countries and the ways in which they are organising for change ... These include :-

1. 20 minute video "Women Working Together"
2. Series of six pamphlets about Womens Lives.

For more information, contact Womankind, Pankhurst Centre, 60 Nelson St M13 9WP.

NOTEPAD.

DON'T MISS:

.....The Public Speaking Workshop on 23rd March at the One World Centre. Contact Juliet to reserve your place.

.....The opportunity to build a lasting peace in the Middle East. MGP is affiliated to the Committee Against War in the Gulf and our contact is Mike Daw.

.....MGP's Brian Candeland, the Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for Withington, guest speaking at a Manchester Forum meeting on 5th June, 7.45pm at Manchester Town Hall. The topic, A Sustainable World Economy?

Renewing your membership. Contact Teresa to do this.

Coming Next Issue ?

- * A Lecture on Criminal and Social Justice by our reporter somewhere in a field. (Reporting restrictions prevent us identifying the exact location.)
- * Censorship - an article written in the style, and with the same content as that produced by a member of an organisation banished from media coverage - The Green Party.
- * Is Fergie Green? A critique by a leading Discourse Theorist.

DIARY

MARCH

- 6th Local Election Strategy Meeting. 8pm 13 Devonshire Rd, Chorlton
- 13th Business meeting. 8pm 21 Ballbrook Avenue Didsbury
- 16th Longsight TWIG members only. Canvass using the litter petition. Meet 11am at 72 Birch Lane
- 23rd **Public Speaking Workshop** 10 to 5pm One World Centre
Led by Marion Shakespeare who has run training courses throughout the country. Ideal for the beginner or those with experience of public speaking. You don't have to be intending to speak in public to get a lot from this workshop **but** you do need to book early as there will be limited places. Contact Juliet to reserve your place.
- 27th Business meeting. 8pm 91 Claud Road, Chorlton

APRIL

- 3rd Longsight TWIG members only. Local campaigning meeting. 8pm Flat 3, 15 Portland Crescent
- 4th Green Party National Press Launch in Manchester of the Direct Democracy Campaign. Contact Juliet for details.
- 6th (provisional date) Jumble Sale in Withington or Longsight. **Help needed** for collecting in the week beforehand and on the day to staff the stalls. If you can help 'phone Rob Goater on 448 1709
- 24th Business meeting 8pm 72 Milwain Road, Levenshulme