

# MALDON & BURNHAM GREEN PARTY



## Newsletter

October 2015

### New Committee Posts



**John Le Seve**  
Chair



**Robert King**  
Treasurer



**Stephen Watson**  
Membership  
Secretary



**Sarah Egholm**  
Events Officer



## New Green Party Branch Formed – Welcome!

**The Green Party of England and Wales** now have a group running the newly re-formed branch of the party in the district of Maldon and Burnham, Essex. This area encompasses the Blackwater Estuary, which puts us on the front line in the fight against nuclear power and nuclear waste dumping at the Bradwell nuclear power station site. In July, a group met to re-start the local Green Party. ‘We are now learning what it is to be a political party, and have been engaged in a range of activities as shown in this newsletter. We have a core of active members, and are looking for more, not just to do active awareness-raising, but also to relax and share interests that are often very similar. A growing number of people in this area are concerned about climate change, animal welfare, transport, inequality, the dominance of big corporations and the UK’s economy.’ (John Le Seve Chair)



From The Green Party Autumn Conference 2015  
**A group of our members went to the Autumn Conference in Bournemouth. They report here**

*See page 4*



**Fiona Hearn**  
Newsletter  
Editor



**Ben Finn**  
Newsletter (deputy)  
Events (deputy)

**Linda Foord** - General Volunteer

## Sign the Avaaz petition!

The newly formed Green Party Climate Change Group (see article p.4) is recommending this petition, already at nearly 3 million signatures! They reviewed the various petitions Europe-wide and decided on this one. **Spread the word! Share the link!**

**Avaaz Mega Climate Petition**  
[https://secure.avaaz.org/en/100\\_clean\\_final/](https://secure.avaaz.org/en/100_clean_final/)

## 150 signatures added to TTIP petition

**“An assault on European and US societies by transnational corporations”** John Hilary War on Want

**Have you heard about TTIP?** If the answer is no, don't get too worried; you're not meant to have.

**The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership** is a series of trade negotiations being carried out mostly in secret between the EU and US. As a bilateral trade agreement, TTIP is about reducing the regulatory barriers to trade for big business; things like food safety law, environmental legislation, banking regulations and the sovereign powers of individual nations. It is, as John Hilary, Executive Director of campaign group War on Want, said: “An assault on European and US societies by transnational corporations.”

Since before TTIP negotiations began last February, the process has been secretive and undemocratic. This secrecy is ongoing, with nearly all information on negotiations coming from leaked documents and Freedom of Information requests.

**In Maldon on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> August, 3 GP members, alongside 3 from the Labour Party jointly added 150 signatures to a petition. WELL DONE MEMBERS! A successful day of awareness-raising for a complex issue!**

**This petition will go to the organisers for submission to the European Council.**

## Funding Award from Central Office

**Well done Sarah!** Our Local Events Officer (Sarah Egholm) worked very hard to submit the application. **£250** has been awarded to the Local Group, to be used to fulfill a membership drive in the Burnham area. A leaflet drop is planned to go to all residents' doors between October and December with a launch event to celebrate the formation of this new branch of the Green Party. If you want to get involved contact details are below.

**Head Office told us “The competition was high, and the pot small” An evaluation of the project will be undertaken for feedback and learning**

## Maldon Regatta Stall

Some of our members, led by Sarah Egholm, got out to meet the public at The Maldon Regatta (photo p1). It was a beautiful day and there were a lot of people enjoying the late



summer weather. The stall looked fantastic, thanks to Sarah's artistic touch and members lent their support in engaging the public in a friendly way and talking to those interested. Some local activists against nuclear Bradwell came to chat and to support us. Thanks to them!

# Are They Fracking Joking!

by Linda Foord

**The Government recently announced measures to override local authority planning decisions for fracking saying it could take over applications from councils that "repeatedly failed" to make decisions within a new statutory sixteen week time frame.**



The Government could now also intervene in fracking planning appeals. This effectively now ends local decision-making as we know it and would make it virtually impossible for local communities to stop fracking going ahead in their areas.

The Government's latest plans to 'fast track' fracking over 60% of our country, has enraged communities all over the UK.

There is well documented evidence from around the world on the increased detrimental effects on climate change from fracking, including methane emissions that can leak from fracked wells. Methane is reported to be much worse for climate change than burning coal! There are also concerns about health safety, noise and water pollution from fracking. The latest plans to re-inject RADIOACTIVE WASTE WATER used in the fracking process (including Radium 266 and many other carcinogenic compounds), will affect the health of wildlife around the UK.

Lucrative tax breaks are being offered to fracking companies to come and frack our country! A freedom of information request recently revealed that the government had spent £50k of tax payer's money to promote three short films extolling the virtues of fracking. There was no mention in any of these films of plunging property prices, problems insuring homes, increased heavy traffic and the damage to the natural environment that is associated with fracking. Nor was there

mention of the risks to human health, increased harmful emissions, or increased earthquakes near fracking sites. The Government's so called 'gold standard' regulations will allow fracking to go ahead near schools, homes, SSSIs and beauty spots.

**If you want to support an anti-fracking group, or want to find out more about this important issue, listed below are some useful websites/facebook pages to help with your research**

### Just Google:

**FRACK OFF** -(web site & on facebook) provides up-to-the-minute news on forthcoming events, demos and meetings from anti-fracking groups with an interactive map showing the latest PEDL (Petroleum Exploration and Development Licenses) issued by the government. Just type in the postcode of the area you want to research. A really useful organization to help start up new fracking groups and will help with leaflets, videos and campaign stuff etc.

**FRACKING NIGHTMARE** (Facebook) -is a weekly review of fracking issues in the UK and abroad. Presenter Ian R Crane, an ex-oil executive, reports on meetings/demos and live interviews from protest camps with fractivists on the front line who are trying to stop their communities from being fracked. Guest Speakers/experts provide invaluable insight as to what is really going on in the fracking industry

worldwide. The programme goes out live at 9 p.m. Every Monday evening or on YouTube a couple of days later.

### fracking videos also available:

**FRACKING HELL UK** (Facebook) - reports news of pollution caused by fracking from all over the world. Help at hand if you have any questions about fracking.

**FRACK FREE LANCS AND FRACK FREE RYEDALE** provide news of their Judicial Reviews. They are trying to get fracking stopped in their regions.



**'Lucrative tax breaks are being offered to fracking companies...'**

### Also worth checking out:

**FRACK FREE ESSEX** (Facebook)

**GREEN PARTY** website

**GREENPEACE** website

**FRIENDS OF THE EARTH** website

# From the Autumn Conference by John Le Seve

A group of us attended what for most of us was our first ever political conference. The venue comprised a main hall (3,000+ seats) hosting key speeches and voting on resolutions. Twenty smaller rooms had talks and workshops, as well as a stalls hall, and a couple of cafes. An excellent venue and a very well organised conference!

We returned enthused, impressed by the good nature, compassion, and sincerity of speakers and others in attendance. It was particularly interesting to be part of the decision making process, where well-chaired discussions were held on dozens of issues culminating in our chance to vote to accept, reject or amend a policy.

Meeting and listening to Natalie Bennett, Shahrar Ali, Caroline Lucas, and Amelia Womack etc has helped us appreciate not only their dedication and knowledge, but also that our 'leaders' are truly human,



*“The future is not something we enter, the future is something we create”*

*Leonard.E.Sweet*

just like us - ordinary people trying to make a difference in a complicated world.

But, the overall message from this weekend has been that we've got to act quickly. We have less than 15 years to dramatically reduce CO2 emissions. This means investing in change, big personal to global changes that at the end of the day will make the world a better place, for the more wealthy to the poorest, for our children's children, for the millions of other species we impact upon, and the beautiful planet we've been given.

## New Climate Change Group Established

Britta Goodman chaired a fringe meeting to gain support for a new group with the aim of raising awareness about climate change in order to promote rapid reform in society, to share ideas and strategies, to form policy and to help set up petitions, demonstrations, stalls etc. Members were nominated and elected there to act as officers and assistant officers. [See GP website Members area under 'Groups' - Join the Forum and keep up-to-date on developments or get involved!](#)

## No PARTY POLITICS for the Burnham Town Councillors!

At the Burnham on Crouch Town Council Meeting of 8th September, all Town Councillors have voted unanimously against the request from Events Officer Sarah Egholm for the MGP to hold stalls at town council-funded public events. The united stance is that party politics have no place at town council events. When queried, no actual reference to any council statute or jurisdiction was made.

[See published article in The Maldon & Burnham Standard 17<sup>th</sup> September edition \(GP website local party resources page\)](#)

**Good news is that information stalls can be held on any public land at any time, in Burnham on Crouch. So now MGP stalls can commence !!**

**Mention At Autumn Conference!**

Andrew Simms, Fellow of The New Economics Foundation must have spotted the above article on the

Green Party website as he mentioned it in his speech 'EU Referendum: The Green YES'. This mention caused the MP Caroline Lucas to smile!

**Thanks to all who attended the meeting and sat through the lengthy agenda. In emails to councillors it was pointed out that poor voter turnout is likely in part due to the fact that political representatives rarely get out to meet people.**



**‘Greens want to see  
an end to all animal  
experimentation’**

(Manifesto 2015)

**‘An end to the  
keeping of primates  
as household pets’**

(Manifesto 2015)



If you want to get in touch about anything, please contact officers via the Green Party website:

[my.greenparty.org.uk](http://my.greenparty.org.uk)  
go to: My Local Party

## Animal Liason Officers elected to Maldon and Burnham Local Group

**Fiona Hearn and Sarah Egholm** were recently elected as the first Green Party Animal Protection Officers for Maldon. The role is to change the culture of acceptance of cruelty to animals and to increase awareness to the general public.

Issues will include badger culling, the introduction of CCTV in slaughterhouses, and co-ordinated action on dog-fighting

Sarah has written to John Whittingdale about the amendment to The Hunting Act and the possibility of rights for Cephalopods (Octopuses/Cuttlefish)

Under the guidance of **Liz Carlton** (Eastern Region Animal Liason Officer) Sarah has written to MEPs about a ban on cloned farm animals, the seasonal Taiji Dolphin Hunt in Japan, and the prospect of a Dolphinarium-free Europe

## Forthcoming Events

**Saturday 24 October** – 10.30 -5pm **Eastern Region Green Party AGM**. Ross Street Community Centre, Ross St, Cambridge CB1 3UZ

**Saturday 31 October** – 7.00pm-10pm **Fracking Nightmare Halloween Film Night**. Hosted by Maldon & Burnham Green Party, followed by discussion. **The Friends Meeting House**, Butt Lane (off Maldon High Street – Parking in Butt Lane car park) CM9 5HD. Free entry and refreshments. (For any contributions to food and drink please contact Ben on 07962 066535 or 01621 819964). There will also be a retiring collection. Further details on GP website. Members events page.

**Saturday 14 November (not a GP event) - Blackwater Bash**. Anti-nuclear Bradwell campaign group **Blackwater Guardians** host evening of music with the live band ‘Too Drunk to Funk’ to raise awareness and funds. 7.30 till late at The MICA Centre, West Mersea. Tickets from Laura Epps 07443 006902 or 01621 851064

**London – 29 November - Climate Change Rally**

**Paris – 12/13 December** - Climate Change Rally (Cycle there with John Le Seve?)