

Edinburgh & Midlothian

# green scene

*news and action for green party members – Winter 2009*



## On the campaign trail - We need you!

**This could be the most important general election ever for Greens, and we have a role to play.**

Our colleagues in England are seeking to elect their first MPs. Following great European results in Brighton, London, Norwich and Oxford Greens are the bookies' favourites to win Brighton Pavilion constituency, and the canvass returns from Norwich South suggest a real chance of victory.

In Scotland we have a real chance to build on this momentum and excitement. The strong candidates we have chosen give us a real chance of doing well, and maybe even winning!

We need a good performance in the Westminster election to increase the chances

of doing well in the Holyrood 2011 and Council 2012 elections.

**Success now will send a real signal to the media and potential voters that Greens are serious and popular.** With reinforced credibility and profile we could expect 2 or 3 MSPs and up to 11 Councillors.

We must work hard to give our candidates a real chance. The work of canvassing, delivering leaflets and promoting candidates is vital to creating Green success. If you can help in anyway please get in touch.

We'll also need funds. You'll find information on how to donate in this mailing – please give what you can.

**We have an exciting 6 months ahead of us - see you on the campaign trail!**

## Introducing your Westminster Candidates

### Edinburgh North & Leith: Kate Joester

Kate has twice stood as our candidate in Forth Ward, and is looking to build on this work by taking the green message to a wider audience.

### Edinburgh South: Steve Burgess

Steve is councilor for Southside and Newington. He plans to use the Westminster platform to continue building green support in all the wards covered by this constituency.

### Edinburgh South West: Clare Cooney

Clare plans to use this campaign to recruit activists, raise all important funds. She looks forward to making the case for a green vote on the doorstep.

### Edinburgh East – Robin Harper

As our best-known politician with over 10 years at Holyrood under his belt Robin needs no introduction. We came third in this constituency in the Euro's – with such a high profile candidate we'll be aiming to beat that this time. Robin believes that we must underline that we offer a real alternative and that a strong showing in this ward can help elect Green MPs across the UK.



# Branch Meetings 2010

*Back by popular demand –  
Thursdays!*

**7:30pm**

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> April

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> May

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July

August – No meeting

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> September

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> October

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> November

December – No Meeting

All meetings start at  
**7:30pm**

and take place at the  
**Quaker Meeting  
House, Victoria  
Terrace, Edinburgh**

on the  
4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the  
month

*Notice of*

## Annual General Meeting

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2010**

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Edinburgh and Midlothian Green Party will take place on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2010 at 7.30pm at the Quaker Meeting House, Victoria Street, Edinburgh

### Agenda

- Welcome
- Minutes of AGM 20th January 2009 and matters arising
- Reports from Branch Committee, including items for discussion and approval:
- MSP Report from Robin Harper MSP
- Councillors Report from Alison Johnstone, Steve Burgess and Maggie Chapman
- Local Team Reports
- Financial Reports
- Election of new office bearers
- AOB

## Call for Nominations

Nominations for the following posts on the committee of Edinburgh and Midlothian Green Party are now open. Nominations will close at the start of the AGM.

- Female Co-Convener
- Male Co-Convener
- Treasurer
- Secretary (Vice Convener)
- Membership Secretary
- Elections Liaison Officer
- Fundraising and Events Officer
- External Communications Officer
- Policy Officer
- Campaign Officers (2)
- Ordinary Members (4)

You may nominate yourself in person on the night, or by email to [edinburgh@scottishgreens.org.uk](mailto:edinburgh@scottishgreens.org.uk). The committee will be elected by members present at the AGM. No proxy voting is allowed. Job shares welcome.

# The Road to 2012: Greens in Council

Over the past 2 years our 3 green councilors have shown how important having a voice in local government is. Their hard work has been paying off, and greens have made a difference; winning the case for higher parking charges for gas guzzlers, leading campaigns to keep schools open and leading opposition to council plans to cut costs on care services for vulnerable people

However, they'll be the first to admit that it's hard for just 3 people to have the impact we need – to be really effective we need more green councilors.

**The next local authority elections take place in 2012. We plan to see 8 greens elected to Edinburgh Council.**

Already local teams have been hard at work delivering newsletters in some wards. In the next 2 years this work will spread across the city, with newsletters delivered throughout the year.

But it's not just newsletters, we'll be canvassing, holding green fairs, working on community councils and in local teams and campaigning on issues like

school closures and protecting vital public services. We need to show the electorate that greens are always working hard in their community – not just at election time!

**All our members have a role to play in making this ambition a reality.**

Some of you will become candidates. The selection process for this has already started, and you'll find nomination papers in this mailing.

For others there is a vital supporting role. From delivering newsletters, to helping out at green events, from door knocking to setting up a regular donation, from helping out on the website to recruiting new members, from sitting on the committee to renewing your membership, it's all vital and we couldn't do it without you! Thanks!

**Between now and 2012 we are all going to have to work harder than ever before, but the prize of a greener Edinburgh is worth fighting for.**

## Help us Meet our Fundraising Target

*We're asking **You** for about the same as a glass of wine a month.*

One of our targets for 2010 is to get 20% of our membership signed up to a small monthly standing order. Currently that figure stands at less than 5%.

There's a standing order form enclosed in this mailing – **please consider giving £5 a month.**



## Midlothian Matters

Branch members based in Midlothian met for a social get-together in early November and decided to move towards setting up their own branch. An 'Inaugural meeting' will be held on Friday 8th January to set up the branch, and if successful, it should be

up and running soon afterwards. Planning for the next local elections as well as the possibility of contesting the Midlothian constituency at the Westminster General Election are the immediate priorities as well as a drive to recruit new members

## Targeting Holyrood

Electing Green MSPs to Holyrood is one of our branches main targets. We will be working with our sister branches in the Lothian's to win a fourth consecutive term for a Green MSP and aiming to return a second one.

Work for this will begin in earnest after summer 2010 and, of course, what we do in the Westminster elections and in our local teams will all help to boost green support in 2011

## Find your Local Team?

Local teams are more relaxed way of getting involved in party activity. They hold social events and campaign on local issues. If you'd like to find out more about local teams please get in touch.

Currently local teams are operating in the following areas;

- Meadows & Morningside
- Leith & Leith Walk
- Inverleith
- Portobello & Craigmillar
- Southside & Newington
- Fountainbridge & Craiglockhart

## Green Fair

*Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> February*

Green Fair: Barclay Church  
(just up from Tollcross)

10.30am – 3pm.

Entry **FREE**.

## Karine Polwart & Friends

*Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March*

*6pm-11pm*

"Music for a Green Scotland", special concert with award-winning singer-songwriter, Karine Polwart and friends: Roxy Art House, Roxburgh Place,

Tickets £12/£8.

Organised by Edinburgh Greens in association with Bespoke Organic Events.

## Big Green Ceilidh

*8pm Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> March*

Big Green Ceilidh with the ever popular Da Hooley Ceilidh Band: 8pm-midnight at the St Brides Centre, Orwell Terrace.

Tickets: £10/£8.

For further details or to book tickets email [events@edinburghgreens.org.uk](mailto:events@edinburghgreens.org.uk) or phone / text 07847 50401

Edinburgh & Midlothian  
C/o Scottish Green Party  
Thorn House, 5 Rose Street  
Edinburgh,

[edinburgh@scottishgreens.org.uk](mailto:edinburgh@scottishgreens.org.uk)

[www.edinburghgreens.org.uk](http://www.edinburghgreens.org.uk)

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