



Cllr. Rupert Read
Green Party lead candidate for Eastern Region in 2009 Euro-elections

e-Newsletter August 2008

Hello, and welcome to the latest edition of my newsletter!

There's lots that I hope you will find of interest below: my latest on the Green Party's inaugural Leadership contest, some stuff on fundraising (always important!), and a few words on the exciting Green Party national Conference about to take place. First, though, let me just say that I am feeling very energised after a wonderful *long* break in much of July and August – my honeymoon! (If you want to see more from my wedding, then check out <http://www.facebook.com/album.php?aid=141139&l=9fe4f&id=899345536>). It was a green wedding more than a white one: invites by email, no presents (by request), local veggie food, local (but not rare!) wild flowers for the posies and table displays, and we departed on foot and then by train... And it was absolutely great, though I say so myself! ☺

Autumn Party Conference, 5 – 8 Sept.

As always, there will be loads happening at our Party Conference, in London starting next week. My own Conference will involve among many other things:

- Blogging at <http://greendepatches.blogspot.com/>
- An important meeting of the full Eastern Region Euro-elections Campaign Team
- A motion that I am proposing on increasing British Summer Time to cover more of the year, so that most of us are awake for more daylight hours (saving lives and carbon in one fell swoop!)
- A big, controversial motion that I am proposing on taking the power to create money out of the hands of private banks and back into the hands of the state – I believe that this could stop the rot of the credit crunch and the financial crisis, were it to be implemented
- A workshop that I am leading on the next Green Party national European Elections Manifesto (which I will be authoring).

The real highlight of the Conference is however surely going to be the hustings for our Leader-candidates, and then the speeches by the successful Leader and Deputy candidates elected... This is a new moment of visibility and of growing seriousness about power in our Party, and Conference will make that – visibly – clear. *Why not come along?* <http://www.greenparty.org.uk/nextconference>. That leads nicely into the next item...

Featured Article: Political History Will Be Made At Green Party Conference

First published in Our Kingdom, Open Democracy Aug 21st, 2008. <http://tinyurl.com/57yt48>

I am a local Councillor. Green Councillors want a Party that works well, a Party that punches above its weight, a Party that will deliver the successes and the desperately-needed policy-changes nationally that Greens are already achieving all over the country, locally.

That prospect is perhaps now within sight. For the Green Party is about to make history. Having had a system of 'Principal Speakers' for the last generation, the Party is currently holding its first-ever election for a Leader (see here and here for the history of how this came to be). The entire membership has been balloted; the final votes will be cast at our national Party Conference on Sept. 5; the result will come out on Sept. 6.

My friend and colleague Adrian Ramsay is unopposed for Deputy Leader. For the Leadership position itself there is an intriguing contest going on, between our MEP and current Principal Speaker Caroline Lucas, and Ashley Gunstock, a grassroots member mainly well-known for his acting appearances on TV's "The Bill".

I will be voting for Lucas, simply because I believe that she is nothing less than the best politician - the most inspirational, the most intelligent, the most passionate, the most on-the-mark - in Britain today, never mind just in the Green Party.

In any case, whoever is elected, it will be a historic moment when our first-ever Leader finally stands up to give their inaugural address to Party Conference on the morning of Monday September 8th. Our momentum should then snowball: and with excellent timing, because the next two years are the biggest opportunity the Greens have had for twenty years.

In 1989, we scored 15% in the Euro-elections. In 1999, with a fairer electoral system, we broke through and got our first two MEPs elected. In 2009, we aim to at least double that number. Such clear momentum will give us the platform we need in order to get into the Westminster Parliament for the first time, in the likely 2010 general election.

Within Brighton Pavilion's constituency boundaries, the Green Party took 30% of the vote to Labour's 25% at the last local elections, a share we need only to hold in the next general election to elect Caroline Lucas, taking the seat from Labour's new candidate. Across Norwich South Westminster constituency in the 2008 local elections, the Green Party came first, with 33% of the vote, three thousand votes ahead of Labour, meaning that Adrian Ramsay would be elected, by defeating the unpopular Charles Clarke.

With a Leader for the first time, we have in prospect the chance of converting the strong support that we have enjoyed in local and Euro elections into a Westminster win. A Leadership team of Lucas and Ramsay will, I believe, change the face of British politics forever, by seeing the Green Party's Parliamentary representation mushroom, in Brussels, and at last come to be, in Westminster.

RR in the Media (some highlights):

Anglia TV, Radio Norwich & Radio Norfolk Praising RSPB for their stance on manmade climate change and for working with nature rather than against it in terms of the shoreline; questioning whether there really aren't any alternatives to letting the sea into the Titchwell nature reserve.

New Statesman On the hypocrisy of the architects of the Iraq War lecturing Russia about respect for sovereign boundaries.

Norwich Evening News
<http://tinyurl.com/58ye8a> Commenting on the secret bail hostels operating in Norwich without council consent.

Public Speaking:
<http://tinyurl.com/6s9lnn>
<http://tinyurl.com/5ef7v6> On the 26th August, Rupert spoke at a public meeting at North Walsham Community Centre at 7.30pm (alongside Norman Lamb MP and others). To protest against a company proposing to store industrial waste at an old sewage plant. The proposal raises huge worries: about HGV traffic through entirely-unsuitable country lanes.

(see below for upcoming public engagements)

Blogging:

Rupert was absent from the blogosphere for three whole weeks while enjoying a well-deserved honeymoon with his new wife, Juliette. However, since returning home to Norwich Rupert has been blogging with gusto, posting no fewer than 27 times in just 16 days! Some of the highlights were:

The US Presidential Election – McKinney, not Obama

<http://tinyurl.com/5g7mx8>

The Olympic Games – Olympic Smog, It's Not-So-Hidden-Message

<http://tinyurl.com/5n6gnt>

The Green Party Elections – Green Party Election Ballot Hit My Doormat!

<http://tinyurl.com/64ydsz>

EU May Force MI5 to Share Intelligence – A Green Response

<http://tinyurl.com/5s3cwm>

Combating the BNP – Vote Green to Keep Out The BNP in Eastern Region

<http://tinyurl.com/6ova96>

Other subjects earning a mention on this month were: Coastal erosion, the true (i.e. non-Green) face of Toryism, problems facing inner-city cyclists, Camp Climate 2008 and Government climate change complacency. *Check out the full blog here:*

<http://rupertsread.blogspot.com/>

STOP PRESS! Rupert's Read in Top 20 Green Blogs!

See the full list here: <http://iaindale.blogspot.com/2008/08/top-20-green-blogs.html>

Campaign Fundraising:

Paypal

Below is the link to our PapPal fundraising account. Please feel free to make a donation, small or large! We need to raise £50,000 to compete with the other parties in the Euro Elections next year and every little bit counts.

<http://tinyurl.com/6k98kn>

Please forward the link on to anyone/everyone you know who might be willing to donate! *Thanks!*

Café Green

Can you help the Green Party raise money for the Euro-Election campaign...by having fun at a Carnival? Yes you can! Read on...

'Cafe Green' is at Waveney Greenpeace Fair (Sept 7th), trying to raise plenty of money for the Euro Election Fund, to help Rupert get elected next summer. This is a key fundraising event in our calendar: last year, it netted us about £2k!

Waveney Greenpeace Fair - Sunday September 7th 11am - 11pm - Hulver Farm, St Michael South Elmham, near Halesworth, Suffolk.

<http://www.waveneygreenpeace.org.uk>

We still need help for the Waveney Greenpeace event. While experience is useful, there are jobs to suit all ages and abilities, and fun to be had at these events between sessions of washing up etc! If you can serve food, clear tables, cook, fill rolls, cut cake, write menus or wash up, we need you. Help will be needed starting the afternoon before in each case.

If you are able to bring fruit, veg, salad, herbs or cakes then they are welcome to swell the profits and enhance the quality.

Cafe Green aims to provide ethical food, from local sources, organic where available, and fair traded if possible. We use crockery and cutlery, not plastic forks and paper plates, and even the serviettes are from recycle paper.

Please contact John Matthissen at john@matthissen.net with offers of help ASAP, and ask your friends, fellow Greens etc to offer as well. Many hands make light work.

Recent/Upcoming Diary Highlights:

Date	Venue	Activity
20 th Aug	Beds & Luton	Meeting with Green activists
26 th Aug	North Walsham	Anti-dumping public meeting
30 Aug.	Cambridge	On Green stall at 'Pink Picnic'

5 th – 8 th Sept	London	GP Conference
8 Sept.	Witham	Campaigning in Council byelection
11 Sept.	Ely	Speaker, Green Party Meeting
20 Sept.	Norwich	Norfolk Green Party AGM
21 st Sept	Norwich	Speaker, 'Peace One Day'
25 Sept.	Norwich	Joint Highways Agency Cttee
26 Sept.	Great Yarmouth	Public meeting on dredging
28 Sept.	Huntingdon	Speaker, Green Party Meeting

Green Links:

- Sign up for the **One World Column** RSS feed:
<http://new.edp24.co.uk/content/rss/default.aspx?id=edpOneWorld>
- **Social Networking**
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Rupert-Read/9128762052>
http://www.myspace.com/rupert_read
- Twitter: <http://twitter.com/RupertRead>
- Here are my regular **OPEN DEMOCRACY** articles:
http://www.opendemocracy.net/blog/rupert_read

Feedback/Contact Details:

All of your feedback is hugely welcome so please feel free to contact me to comment about the newsletter and/or any of my other campaign work.

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Thanks!



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[[Note: this newsletter is put out in Rupert Read's name and does not necessarily represent the opinion of Eastern Region Green Party.]]

