

York Central

GreenLight



The Newsletter of York Green Party

May 2014

You can help elect Yorkshire's first Green MEP on May 22nd

Opinion polls now put the Greens neck-and-neck with the Lib Dems for the European Elections. In Yorkshire and the Humber the Greens were just over 1% short last time when the 6th seat in this proportional election went to the BNP. As the fourth largest group in the European Parliament, Greens in Europe already make a very real difference.

Key election campaign issues:

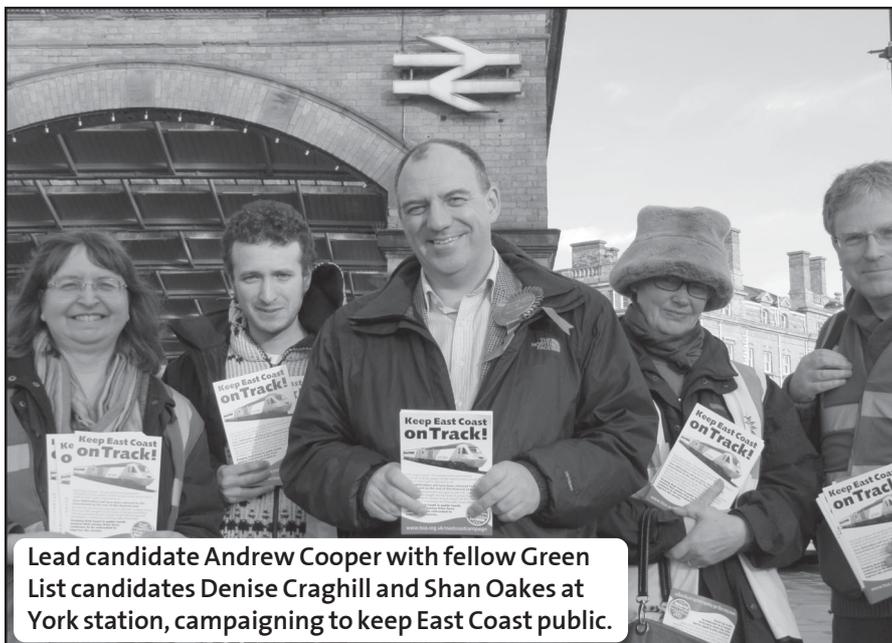
- Oppose 'fracking' for shale gas
- Secure investment in jobs in clean renewable energy including solar power and offshore wind
- Protect wildlife, boost local food and food safety by changing EU farming subsidies
- Opposing privatisation and public service cuts
- A referendum on Europe – backing a reformed EU with more local decisions
- Opposing the power of big corporations (see 'TTIP – the Big BAD Law' over the page)
- Oppose re-privatising East Coast services, bring the railways into public hands and Shift HS2 funds into boosting basic rail services

Green MEPs work for people, not profit.

Free parking scrum follows Lendal fiasco

Following the bungled Lendal Bridge trial Greens are urging Labour to make sure that the new 'Congestion Commission' is fully independent and gets on with involving residents in finding urgent solutions to York's traffic and air quality problems.

Green leader Andy D'Agorne also initiated a 'call-in' of
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Lead candidate Andrew Cooper with fellow Green List candidates Denise Craghill and Shan Oakes at York station, campaigning to keep East Coast public.

Bedroom Tax Protest

Denise Craghill joined members of York People's Assembly at a recent protest against the Coalition Government's bedroom tax. Denise said 'There isn't any supply of suitable smaller properties for people to move into. Many vulnerable people are being pushed out of their homes, deeper into poverty or into debt simply because they have a spare bedroom for a carer, to store equipment that they need or for visiting relatives or friends to stay in. This is a cruel and deeply unfair measure that should be abandoned at once.'



Members of York People's Assembly protest outside the Mansion House

Protecting York's Future

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the decision to fund free parking in most council car parks for Thurs-Sat mornings. He said: "This money was earmarked to minimise congestion caused by the new shopping park at Monks Cross. Instead it will increase congestion in the city centre, on the busiest shopping days of the week, whilst ignoring the needs of public transport users. It could fund a free city centre shuttle bus or free pensioners' travel on park & ride, to benefit both traders and the city centre environment."

Planning Matters

Green Party members joined around 50 residents in a recent event discussing the future of that building we love to hate – Stonebow house. The Living with History Project aims to look at how planning decisions that affect York's heritage, including more recent history, are made. One aim is to involve as many people as possible in future decisions.



Most agreed that demolition had crossed their minds! But many also felt that refurbishment might be the best practical option and offer exciting possibilities for transforming the building into something special and attractive, whilst protecting the music venues and existing tenants.

Find 'York's Alternative History' on Facebook, also livingwithhistory.wordpress.com. Greens will be participating in a meeting on 2nd June when the Civic Trust will be hosting an initial discussion on the future of the Eye of York area near Clifford's Tower.

Community Action

The Groves Secret Garden (between Lowther St and Townend St) – events for young & old throughout May & June – see bit.ly/1ml1u5N for details.

'Greenfields: School & Community Garden' is a fantastic collaboration between local residents and Haxby Rd Primary School. New participants always welcome. Find them on facebook as above.

Edible York activities include regular summer Saturday morning sessions planned for the vegetable beds at Peasholme Green, Whip-ma-Whop-ma-Gate and the Barbican. www.edibleyork.org.uk

Friends of York Walls are producing new online and printed guides, public openings of the Fishergate Postern & Red Tower and occasional litter picks. Find out more, join or support via www.yorkwalls.org.uk

Greens oppose corporate takeover



The Green Party is leading opposition to a secret EU – US trade deal, dubbed the Big BAD Law (Big Business Against Democracy). The deal is a massive attack on the ability of governments to make their own decisions. The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) gives corporations the right to sue governments and claim compensation for policies they consider may reduce their profits.

Bans on certain pesticides considered to harm bees, hormone injected meat, irradiated food, GMOs and much more will be open to challenge if the secretly negotiated agreement is passed. It will also open up our NHS to competition from US health providers and drive down protection standards for workers and consumers. It is being pushed by Cameron and the City of London – the bankers who brought us the recession – with little opposition from Labour, Lib Dems or indeed UKIP. See

www.Jeanlambertmep.org.uk for her TTIP report.

Fracking latest

Ryedale District Council has supported the Green Party position of



a presumption against fracking in its submission to the York and North Yorks draft Waste and Minerals Plan.

Green MP Caroline Lucas was recently cleared of charges related to taking part in an anti-fracking protest. She said "My acquittal is not a cause for celebration. We will continue to campaign to end fracking and only celebrate when our world is on the path to a clean energy future."

'Frack-Free York' is campaigning to stop fracking anywhere in or near York. The group is urging the Council to pass a 'no fracking' motion and is monitoring Dart Energy which has a license to frack covering all of the west of York and beyond (although planning permission will also be needed before any drilling could start). Find Frack Free York on facebook and at www.frackfreeyork.org.uk

York Green Party

Protecting York's Future

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