

# News from South West (CG) Co-operative Party Council

the co-operative party

Edition 3

September 2008

## **COMING EVENTS**

Your opportunity to hear Ed Balls, Labour/Co-op MP, Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families at the South West Labour Dinner on **Wednesday, 1st October**, 19.00 at the Corn Exchange, Exeter.

Tickets - £22.50 from Labour South West, 4 Emery Road, Brislington, Bristol.  
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The next Exeter & Devon branch meeting will take place on

**Monday 6 October at 19:00**, at Exeter Labour Party HQ, 26B Clifton Hill, Exeter. Our speaker will be Bill Jordan who will talk about Devon's Senior Council which he chairs. We will have a report of the research Martin Odoch from Uganda has been doing on Fairtrade – he cannot be with us as he could not get a visa.

We hope to see you there.  
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## **Calling all Somerset members ABERMARLE CENTRE, TAUNTON (BUFFET LUNCH PROVIDED)**

Can a Co-operative party branch for the whole of Somerset be successful?? With fewer local branches, co-operators in our area hope to provide a new forum. Saxon Spence, Andrew North and Richard Tomlinson will outline why we could have a operative branch for Somerset and its importance. Please make every effort to come and support this initiative.

For further information contact Ian Grady, details at bottom right of page, or Saxon Spence **tele: 01392 271785**

## **Consumerism or co- operation?**

**Ethical consumerism, Fairtrade, organic food, healthy eating, price comparison websites, trading standards, the consumer culture... We have never had so much choice yet it can be so daunting making informed choices as consumers. The co-operative movement was founded based on consumers' needs. Now the need for informed and protected consumerism is greater than ever, and co-ops can play a major part.**

**Highlights from your delegates' reports of a very successful conference:**

**Andrea Lanxon**

## **LOCAL ELECTIONS**

**The Co-operative Party stands for:**

### **Enterprise**

A sustainable economy and society

### **Empowerment**

a culture of citizenship

### **Accountability**

socially responsible business

## National news

The Conservative Party has professed its support for co-operatives, even suggesting the principle should be extended to running schools – two months after Ed Balls MP announced the same thing! But when a Labour Co-operative MP organised a debate on co-operative schools, not one Tory turned up. So much for their commitment – it was just another gimmick. Read more at the Guardian Diary column: [www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2008/mar/28/1](http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2008/mar/28/1)

On what was a grim night for Labour at the local and London elections, there was some good news. Labour retook the borough of Slough in Berkshire. Four of the winning candidates are now Labour Co-operative councillors, including the new Leader of the Council. In London meanwhile, seven Labour Co-operative candidates were elected to the London Assembly and hope to force Boris to support our principles.

The Building Societies Association held its conference in early May amid signs that mutuels are better placed to weather the credit crunch. Building societies, which are usually run more prudently and don't tend to borrow in the risky way many banks do, have seen a huge increase in saving this year. Mortgages are also up in a big way, as people turn their backs on the banks.

# Our MP reports

## News from the local MP or councillors

*Use this space to report back news from the local councillors or MP relevant to co-op matters.*

## Eating for Labour

## South West (CG) Co-operative Party Council

Chair: Cllr. Ian Martin  
Secretary: Cllr. Saxon Spence

Vice Chair: Christine Dore  
Treasurer: Cllr. Saxon spence

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### The Co-operative Party stands for:

#### Enterprise

A sustainable economy and society

#### Empowerment

a culture of citizenship

#### Accountability

socially responsible business