

News from the South Western (CG) Co-operative Party Council

the co-operative party

October, 2009

Coming Events:

The next meeting of Exeter & Devon Co-operative Party Branch is on

Monday 19 October at 19:00
at Exeter Labour HQ, 26B Clifton Hill, Exeter.

Main items - a report from Saxon Spence on the Annual Conference and discussion of the Party's new manifesto.

Somerset members will be getting details of their next branch meeting soon. The annual Meeting of the newly launched **Cornwall** Branch will be in St. Austell – all Cornwall members will be receiving invitations.

Christmas bazaar

The Co-op Party will have a FairTrade stall at Exeter Labour Party's bazaar on Saturday, 21st November, 10.30 at the Corn Exchange.

Weekend School

Next year's weekend school on the theme "The Feeling's Mutual" will be held at Brunel Manor, Torquay on Saturday, 23rd and Sunday 24th January – booking form enclosed.

Stop Press: speakers will include **Sarah McCarthy Fry MP** for Portsmouth North and Treasury Minister and **Doug Naysmith**, MP for Bristol North

A co-operative agenda for a fourth term

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the co-operative party

At the Co-operative Party Conference, the Party launched its manifesto – A Co-operative Agenda for a Fourth Term. Our manifesto sets out our ideas for government after the next election. As well as support for co-operative enterprise, housing co-ops and credit unions, the Party has also laid out radical new plans. These include new energy co-ops which save consumers money and help save

the planet; a Financial Inclusion Act to help the poorest in society; and plans to help Fairtrade farmers in developing countries own brands over here.

Your representatives at conference: Ian Grady, Andrea Lanxon and Saxon Spence, were really impressed by the re-surgent spirit of the Co-operative Movement. They heard proposals for the future of Northern Rock as a mutual. With Co-operative Financial Services going from strength to strength, we have a tested and principled alternative to the discredited banking system.

Support for Parliamentary candidates – The Party council has made grants to CLPs whose candidates are Co-op Party members: Ben Bradshaw in Exeter, Jude Robinson in Camborne & Redruth, Charlotte Mackenzie in Truro & Falmouth, Darren Jones in Torridge & West Devon, Martin Jevon in Taunton Deane and Andy Merrifield in Wells, to help them promote the Co-operative message.

Co-op Members Meetings

It is very important that we attend the half yearly meeting for members of the Co-operative Group to be held in Exeter on Thursday, 15th October, at the Rougemont Hotel, 5.45 for 6.30 pm start, and in Truro at Alverston Manor on Friday, 16th October, 4.45 for 5.30 pm start. For more information and to register you are attending, please contact the membership team on 01884 266892.

The Co-operative Party stands for:

Enterprise

A sustainable economy and society

Empowerment

a culture of citizenship

Accountability

socially responsible business

Get connected! Visit our new website

National news

At Co-operative Party Conference in Edinburgh, the Party launched a new network for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic members. This network aims to recruit and retain more BAME members and to better involve them in party activities and structures.

If you or potential members want to get involved, contact Martin Tiedemann on 020 7367 4150 or BAME@party.coop.

Also at Conference, the Party published a new pamphlet, *Collective Power: Changing the way we consume energy*. This document, by Robbie Erbmann, Hugh Goulbourne & Piya Malik, sets out exciting plans for energy co-ops which allow people to buy energy collectively, saving money and investing in new technology. Copies are available from Head Office or on www.party.coop.

During Co-operative Party Conference, we partnered with LabourList to publish articles showcasing our policies, best practice in the co-operative movement, and debate in Edinburgh. Among the contributors were MPs Ed Balls, Douglas Alexander, Ed Miliband, Jim Knight, Alun Michael, Gareth Thomas and Sarah McCarthy-Fry; the Co-operative Group Chair, Len Wardle. Check out www.labourlist.org for all the news.

The South Western party council now has its own website, designed very attractively by Des Gander, where you can find all the latest news about Co-operative Party local and national activities. Read about what has been happening and find out what is planned.

There are pages setting out our values and principles, telling you how you can contact your Branch and your Labour/Co-operative councillors, how to join and the area we cover. You can see the Party in action. There is a password enabled members' section which includes minutes of the Party Council. We will send you the password on request.

You can read the Party manifesto and the new policy document on green community energy.

Please look at our website and send us your comments and news you want to share. The address is

www.swcoopparty.org.uk

Membership is our life blood

It is a sad fact that the BNP has more members than the Co-operative party – put this right by recruiting at least one member from your family, friends, and Co-operators who have not yet realised how vital the Co-operative Party is to the future progress of the Co-operative Movement.

Many thanks to all those members who pay their subs by direct debit. If you haven't yet paid for the current year this is a reminder that £15 is due for 2009. If you are unwaged the local annual sub is £10. Please pay your branch secretary or send it to me. We value your membership and don't want to lose you. Saxon Spence

South Western Co-operative Party Council

Chair: Cllr. Ian Martin

Vice Chair: Chris Herries

Secretary: Cllr. Saxon Spence

Treasurer: Richard Tomlinson

1 Lancaster Close, Exeter, EX2 5SW. Tel: 01392 271785

Exeter & Devon Branch Secretary: Cllr. Ian Martin, 18 Third Avenue, Exeter, EX1 2PJ.

Somerset Branch Secretary: Ian Grady, 2 Lower Meadow Rd, Alcombe, Minehead, Somerset, TA24 6AN.

Cornwall Co-ordinator: Dave Doyle 91 Stannary Road, St. Austell, Cornwall, PL12 8EN.

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