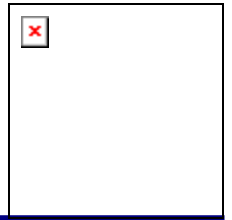


# News from South Western (CG) - SOMERSET BRANCH Co-operative Party



April 2009

## Our next branch meeting ?

We want to hear from you! As a newly formed branch of the party we are looking for your ideas for speakers and subjects. Drop us an email - [mjevon@hotmail.com](mailto:mjevon@hotmail.com) and let us know what you want to see happening.

## NEC Elections

**Two Somerset Branch members are standing for NEC positions this year. Richard Tomlinson for the South West seat, and Martin Jevon for the one member one vote seat. Keep an eye on your doormat for your voting documents as they will be dropping onto your doormats in the next month or so.**

## The feeling's mutual



The crisis in our banking industry and the global economy is leading more commentators and politicians to look at mutual solutions. Many of the building societies and co-operatively owned businesses have weathered the storm much better and did not make some of the mistakes of the PLC banks.

People want a safe place to save and borrow, for bankers to be properly controlled and an end to casino capitalism, and the feeling's mutual. This spring, the Co-operative Party will be launching a campaign called 'The Feeling's Mutual', with plenty for us all to do to promote mutual financial services and a new way of organising our economy.

visit [www.party.coop](http://www.party.coop) for more information and case studies.

## Don't Forget

The annual meeting for members of the *South Western (CG) - SOMERSET BRANCH Co-operative Party* will take place on Tuesday 12th May at Creetown House, Albemarle Road, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 1BG. 7.30pm

For more information and to register that you will be attending contact Ian Grady at [ian@madasafish.com](mailto:ian@madasafish.com) or phone tel 01643 704112.

The Co-operative Party stands for:

### Enterprise

A sustainable economy and society

### Empowerment

a culture of citizenship

### Accountability

socially responsible business

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## National news

The co-op movement is gaining in profile at just the time that traditional PLC companies are taking a battering. Members of Britannia Building Society are being balloted on merger with Co-operative Financial Services to create a 'super-mutual'.

The big news for the renaissance of co-operatives came in February, with the launch of the beautiful new ad from the Co-operative Group, with Bob Dylan's 'Blowin' in the Wind'. The ad showcases the new brand of the Co-op and the many community, environmental and Fairtrade schemes our movement backs.

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SERA, the Labour Environment Campaign, launched a document last month at an event with Hazel Blears MP. 'Unleashing the Power' discusses community involvement in tackling environmental challenges, with a collection of articles by pioneers in community action to promote sustainable living. Examples include dothe-greening.com.

In coming weeks, the Co-operative Party will be releasing new research on how co-operative methods can harness community power to ensure a secure supply of energy while fighting climate change and fuel poverty. SERA's pamphlet is available at [www.sera.org.uk](http://www.sera.org.uk).

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The Annual Conference of the Co-operative Party will take place in Edinburgh from Friday 11 September until Sunday 13 September at the Hilton Edinburgh Grosvenor, by Haymarket station. We will be releasing details of speakers and motions in coming weeks.

## Somerset Co-op Party Member to be MEP Candidate

*Labour has a Somerset Co-operative Party member as one of its Candidates to represent the Party in the June 2009 European Elections. Libby Lisgo a long standing party member, who joins 5 others on the Labour List.*

*Labour's candidates are: Glyn Ford MEP, Isabel Owen, Keir Dhillon, Dorothea Hodge, Dafydd Williams, as well as Libby*

*On the announcement of the team Co-op party member and Labour MEP Glyn Ford said:*

*"I am delighted to be heading up such a strong list. Good representation in Europe is extremely important as we need to deliver the right legislation to continue to improve the lives of all the people who live and work in the South West. This team will deliver.*

*"Between us we have a huge amount of local knowledge, many years of campaigning experience and a great deal of commitment to the region.*

*Libby was a Taunton Deane Councillor for 12 years and Labour Group Leader for 8, and has been the Chief Executive of Age Concern Somerset since 1994. Over the past few years she has campaigned for better investment in neglected areas of Somerset.*

*The European elections are on June 4th*

## Going Bananas in Minehead

WEST Somerset residents took part in a nationwide banana-eating event to raise awareness of Fairtrade goods to mark Fairtrade fortnight.

There were events all over the UK as a part of a nationwide world record attempt to promote Fairtrade bananas and involved more than 380,000 people across the UK. People at the Christians Together Lent lunches in the Church Hall, Bancks Street, Minehead, were encouraged to eat a banana as part of the menu

Minehead Co-op supermarket donated bananas for the lunch, which saw people all over the country eating a Fairtrade banana in the 24 hours starting midday on the Friday.

## South Western - SOMERSET BRANCH Co-operative Party

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