

# News from South West Co-operative Party – Somerset Branch

the co-operative party

November 2009

## Our next Branch meeting

The next meeting of South West Co-operative Party – Somerset Branch will take place on **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January at 19:00**. We will be meeting at Creetown House, Albermarle Road, Taunton. We hope to see you there.

At the meeting, we'll be discussing campaigning ideas, focussing on the Feeling Mutual Campaign

There may also be the chance to hear from our local Labour Co-operative councillors.

## A co-operative agenda for a fourth term. Somerset Branch Meeting

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At the Co-operative Party Conference in September 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.

At our meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> of October we welcomed Martin Tiedemann – Campaigns Officer from the party to talk about the document

He covered a lot of ground in a short space of time and highlighted our traditional support for things like 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.

The manifesto was put together with the help of hundreds of members, local branches and friends across the co-operative movement. A summary will be sent to members and the full version is available to download at [www.party.coop](http://www.party.coop).

### Weekend School – Jan 23/24 2010

In with this mailing you will find details of our annual weekend school. This year was a great success and we want as many members to have the opportunity to attend. At our last meeting we agreed to offer support to members wishing to attend. We can offer between 4 and 6 partially subsidised places, and will also coordinate group travel, saving both money and carbon emissions. Call Martin on 07951 368387 for more details.

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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## More on the Weekend School

The South Western Regional Council will be holding their annual weekend school at Brunel Manor, Torquay. The theme of the event will be 'The Feeling's Mutual'. All are welcome and the event may be of particular interest to co-operators in the South East/West, South Wales and the West Midlands.

For more information please contact Cllr Saxon Spence on 01392 382501 or Joseph Russo on [j.russo@party.coop](mailto:j.russo@party.coop) or 020 7367 4176..

## 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](mailto: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](http://www.party.coop)

## Labourlist and Coop

During Co-operative Party Conference, we partnered with the website LabourList to publish a series of articles showcasing our policies, best practice in the co-operative movement, and the debate we had in Edinburgh. Among the contributors were MPs Ed Balls, Douglas Alexander, Ed Miliband, Jim Knight, Alun Michael, Gareth Thomas and Sarah McCarthy-Fry; the Chair of the Co-operative Group Len Wardle; and a host of friends and leading co-op figures. Check out [www.labourlist.org](http://www.labourlist.org) for all the news

## South West Co-operative Party – Somerset Branch

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