

Newsletter

of the Alliance for Green Socialism – August 2010
www.greensocialist.org.uk



AGS strategy

Following the strategy workshop and subsequent consultations, the national committee has agreed a number of the options that members have put forward:

The AGS will positively position itself as part of the wider environmental movement, both publicly and internally. This dimension will be given equal or greater weight than positioning within the labour movement and left.

The AGS favours positive links with single issue groups including environmental groups.

We will seek to form a unified party with existing & new local parties and campaigns. There has been one meeting towards this and another is expected in October.

A national schedule of big events, at which we hope to have an AGS presence, will be drawn up and we will run stalls at these where feasible. Juliet Boddington will compile a schedule of events, so please let her have details of any you know about.

The AGS will explore and adopt a range of electronic campaigning methods and train people in these. Malcolm Christie and Celia Foote are organising a workshop in Leeds.

We will publicise to AGS members, much better than we do at present, what the AGS does, why we do it and how effective it is. This will cover activities including issue campaigns, meetings, publications and campaigning in elections.

Members will be encouraged to stand in local elections, subject to local resources.

We will be more selective in standing in general elections and focus on pre-agreed outcomes.

For one issue of the Green Socialist journal all members will be sent two copies and asked to find an outlet that will take the second copy, or sell it to someone themselves.

EPPING FOREST GREEN & DEMOCRATIC LEFT

Saturday 2 October

Star-studded music evening

The Cottage Loaf, Debden

nearest tube Debden, central line

8 till late £6 including raffle & buffet

Daniel Kieve DJ

Sarnuaras Turkish singer/dancer,

plus dancers and folk musicians

For details contact Pete Relph 020 8508 6313

Congratulations to Epping Forest GDL on enrolling their fortieth member. This Friday EFGDL convenes a meeting of local library staff to look at fighting the cuts and getting UNISON to back them.

There will be AGS stalls at

NOTTING HILL CARNIVAL

Sunday/Monday 29/30 August

12noon to 5pm

42 St Lawrence Terrace, W10 5ST

contact Eddie Adams samstjohn2003@yahoo.co.uk

BURSTON SCHOOL STRIKE RALLY

Sunday 5 September

11am to 4.30pm

This rally commemorates the longest school strike ever, starting in 1914.

Burston is near Diss in Norfolk

contact John Sillett janetsillett@btopenworld.com

**Can you help at either of these,
even just for an hour or two?**

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WHY DO WE STAND IN ELECTIONS?

Firstly, by standing in elections we **raise the profile of the AGS**. Given that our biggest problem is “*who are you?*” it is a major opportunity. We get the chance to identify ourselves as a serious political group with a unique, broad and considered approach to the social, environmental and economic issues - at a time people are more open to thinking about politics. Our literature is widely distributed and so our name and politics reach a larger audience

Secondly, elections provide an opportunity to **gain members, supporters, and voters**. Standing in an election is a great opportunity to put our politics to people and to gain from them some level of commitment to the AGS, whether joining, doing a bit of work without joining, or just voting for the AGS.

Thirdly, standing in elections shows we are serious about our politics, Every candidate we stand **gives electors the genuine democratic choice** that is denied them by the nearly identical major parties. Any political organisation that fails to do this is really just playing at politics.

Fourthly, it gives us genuine **feedback from ordinary people**, both on the doorstep, via leaflet return slips and in terms of votes. Any group can talk to itself about politics. A group actually seeking change must be prepared to hear from real people.

Fifthly, standing and campaigning in elections gives a huge **boost to our local organisation**. Elections involve a layer of supporters who may otherwise do little or nothing. By and increasing their involvement it increases their commitment. It enables a local group to develop and exercise skills that can be applied not only to elections but to other campaigns.

Local elections require no deposit. Any candidature costs us only the effort and the money we choose to

spend on it - which can be significant or can be nothing. There really is no argument against standing as widely as possible in local elections. Parliamentary elections have a £500 deposit - which buys us some £15,000 worth of free delivery of the election address. Obviously in general elections we have to balance cost against outcomes.

Help the AGS to leaflet anti-cuts demonstrations in the autumn

TRADE UNION CONGRESS

12 noon Sunday 12 September 2010
Manchester Central Convention Complex
The National Shop Stewards Network and others are organising a demonstration.

LIB DEM CONFERENCE

Sat 18 or Sun 19 September 2010 Liverpool
The North West TUC and others are organising a demonstration on the 18th or 19th.

CONSERVATIVE CONFERENCE

Sat 3-6 October 2010 Birmingham
The PCS union and others are organising a demonstration, probably at the weekend.

More details of these demonstrations will be posted on the AGS website at: www.greensocialist.org.uk

Please contact the AGS Secretary, Celia Foote, if you can help at one (or all!) of these.

Meetings of the national committee are normally open to any member to observe. Meetings are on Saturdays, most often at the Calthorpe Arms on Grays Inn Road, Kings Cross, London.

16 Oct 2010 Epping Forest (venue tba) 11:00
11 Dec 2010 Calthorpe Arms, London 13:15
5 Feb 2011 Calthorpe Arms, London 12:00
30 April 2011 Calthorpe Arms, London 13:15

Note that the October meeting is now on 16th October.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE Sat 2 Apr 2011 Leeds

Please send news of local politics and events to Mike Davies for the newsletter.

2010 National Committee members responsibilities

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