

Newsletter

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



AGS STRATEGY REVIEW

Saturday Sunday 5/6th June 2010 in Leeds

How do we achieve our green socialist aims?

Come to Leeds for the first weekend in June, Sat 5th and Sun 6th June. The AGS National Committee is organising a weekend workshop on the strategic direction of the AGS. All members are invited to attend and contribute.

The workshop will look at what we, the Alliance for Green Socialism, are trying to achieve and at how we can best try to do it. This is intended to be very open workshop in which everyone's ideas are welcome and anything is sayable.

It follows the failure of our attempt to build a coalition with other left groups and is a month after the general election.

Amongst other things, we need to look at engagement (or otherwise) with other left, green groups and single issue groups; how we campaign outside elections; our election involvement and campaigning; and growing the AGS.

The workshop is at the Swarthmore Education Centre, 2 Woodhouse Square, Leeds, LS3 1AD. There is a circular free bus, running every 10 minutes, from the rail and bus stations (get off at Park Lane, 5 minutes after the rail station).

The weekend will kick off with a national committee meeting at 10:30 on Saturday. The strategy workshop will start at 13:00 Saturday and finish at 15:00 Sunday. On Saturday evening there will be a social event at Malcolm Christie's house combining relaxation and further informal discussion.

The national committee asks members to give us your ideas on what the weekend should address and how it should be structured. A provisional programme is given below.

It is very important that the workshop should be able to think "outside the box", so input from members not on the national committee is important. Even if you cannot come, send ideas or questions to the Secretary.

Overnight accommodation will be available for anyone who needs it. Please book in advance. Contact the Secretary, Celia Foote.

Provisional workshop programme

The national committee will meet at Swarthmore from 10.30am to 12:30pm Saturday. Members are welcome to sit in.

SATURDAY at SWARTHMORE

12.30pm lunch

1.00pm Introduction and programme

1.30pm AGS strengths & weaknesses

3.00pm Group sessions to develop options:

- The outside world: politics & economics
- Other political groups: relationships
- What the AGS does and offers

6.00pm Close of formal session.

SATURDAY at MALCOLM'S

6.30pm onwards - Social & informal discussion

SUNDAY at SWARTHMORE

10.00pm Strategy options from groups

10.30pm Discuss options & generate new ones

12.15pm lunch

1.00pm Options to present to membership

3.00pm Close of formal sessions

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AGS election results

The AGS stood in a few seats (as many as we could) in both the general and local elections. Results:

PARLIAMENTARY

Kensington	197	0.6%	+0.2%
Leeds East	429	1.1%	
Leeds North East	596	1.3%	-1.2%
Leeds North West	121	0.3%	-0.1%
Scarborough & Whitby	111	0.2%	
Vale of Clwyd	127	0.4%	

Our vote in our best Westminster seat, Leeds NE, was disappointing, while that in Leeds E was oddly high for a seat never before contested. In other seats we did creditably but were miles from saving deposits.

LOCAL (all in Leeds)

Alwoodley	152	1.2%	-1.2%
Chapel Allerton	825	7.9%	-1.2%
Gipton & Harehills	153	1.8%	+0.4%
Headingley	89	1.1%	+0.1%
Killingbeck & Seacroft	147	1.7%	-0.7%
Moortown	301	2.4%	-1.2%
Otley & Yeadon	233	1.9%	-0.4%
Roundhay	448	3.6%	-0.4%
Temple Newsam	126	1.2%	
Weetwood	78	0.7%	-1.1%

In our two strongest seats, our number of votes was up because there was no Green Party candidate this time. Mostly our number votes held up but our share (of a doubled turnout!) was down.

Samples of AGS election material are enclosed with this mailing

Group representatives

There are several vacancies for group reps, and one for a directly elected national committee member. Please nominate, or volunteer, to the Secretary.

Even where groups do have a rep, feel free to put yourself or someone else forward to take over. Discuss this locally or contact the national Secretary, Celia, directly.

Post-election round table

On Sunday 13th June, North London AGS have a roundtable discussion on the situation after the election. With Manuel Moreno, Dave Welsh & Toby Abse. Start 2.00pm at the Lucas Arms, 245^A Grays Inn Road, London, WC1X 8QZ

National committee meetings

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.

Forthcoming dates are:

- 5 Jun 2010 Swarthmore Centre, Leeds 10:30
- 31 Jul 2010 Calthorpe Arms, London 13:15
- 2 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 Epping Forest meeting is now in October, while the June meeting is in Leeds on the 5th, immediately followed by the strategy weekend.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE Sat 2 Apr 2011 Leeds

2010 National Committee members

<i>AGS officers for this year:</i>	Chair	Mike Davies	m.davies@greensocialist.org.uk	07811 384888
	Secretary	Celia Foote	celiafoote@nasuwt.net	0113 262 4667
	Treasurer	Malcolm Christie	m_s_christie@yahoo.com	0113 293 1948
	Membership	Juliet Boddington	juliet.boddington@btinternet.com	01947 605992
	GS Editor	Bryn Glover	brynelaine@theglovers.orangehome.co.uk	020 8508 6313
	Press	Pete Relph		020 8508 1817
<i>Directly elected members:</i>		Bob Archer	bobarcher46@btinternet.com	020 8522 1156
		Mike Butler	miketowyn@btinternet.com	01745 344093
		<i>vacant</i>		
<i>Group & Affiliate reps:</i>	Brighton	<i>vacant</i>		
	Chichester	Simon Boxley	tinderbox@gn.apc.org	01730 821464
	Colchester	<i>vacant</i>		
	Envir Socialists	<i>seat declined</i>		
	Epping Forest GDL	Pete Relph		020 8508 1817
	Leeds	Dave Marlow	davemarlow@gmail.com	07946 440535
	North London	Eddie Adams	samstjohn2003@yahoo.co.uk	020 8964 9531
	Rugby RGA	Liz Peck	lilibet.peck@ntlworld.com	01788 335534
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	Socialist Alliance	Toby Abse	t.abse@gold.ac.uk	020 7373 7881
	South London	<i>vacant</i>		