

EUR GREENLEAF

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Vote Green Party

For green collar jobs vote Green

Green Party proposals for a European New Green Deal could create millions of green-collar jobs, many of them in the UK, and lead Europe out of the recession, says Caroline Lucas MEP, Green Party leader and South East Euro-candidate.

"The New Green Deal is the cornerstone of our Euro-election campaign. Our proposals to invest in environmental industries would tackle unemployment across Europe, slash household energy bills, address climate change by cutting carbon emissions and reduce our dependence on imported fossil fuels.

"As part of a 42-strong green alliance in the European Parliament, Green MEPs have made a powerful case for action. The European Commission has finally got the message, and announced a 'green' rescue package for the economy.

"Some of this package should support the rapid expansion of 'green' industries – not least in the South

East of England – as part of the move to a low-carbon economy in Europe. The investment would create jobs across the employment spectrum – from research and development to manufacturing, assembling, fitting and maintaining the wind turbines, solar panels and the other hardware we need to tackle climate change.

"At the same time we must insulate homes, schools, hospitals, public buildings, offices and factories on a massive scale to reduce fuel poverty and shrink the EU's carbon footprint. We must invest in sustainable public transport and increase the efficiency of the National Grid, which leaks precious energy like a sieve.

"Green councillors are making the argument for the Green New Deal in town halls across the UK – with some notable local successes," says Caroline. "But if we're serious about turning round the recession and dealing with climate change – we need action on a



Green Party leader Caroline Lucas is calling for a European Green New Deal

European scale, and we need it now.

"The more Green MEPs who are elected on June 4th, the greater chance we'll have of making sure this package of jobs, lower energy bills and urgent action on climate change is introduced across the EU."

Halt airport expansion in the South East says Green Party leader

Plans to expand London Ashford airport, Lydd and other local airports in the South East have been branded as environmental and economic madness by Green Party leader Dr Caroline Lucas MEP.

Caroline Lucas, who also condemned the Labour government's decision to allow the construction of a new runway at Heathrow as a breach of European law, said: "If the government pushes ahead with plans to expand airports like

Farnborough, Lydd, Manston, Rochester and Southampton it would be at the expense of local communities and result in lasting damage to the environment.

"Homes will be destroyed and communities made to endure more noise, air pollution and road congestion. This is madness and the Green Party will continue to speak out against the government's plans to increase air travel. With aviation emissions increasing at about 6% a year in Europe,



it is already the fastest growing cause of emissions leading to climate change."

Government advisors back Green call for action

The Sustainable Development Commission – the UK Government's official advisor on green issues – backs Caroline's call for investment. In a recent report it urged the UK Government to commit up to £30 billion a year for the next three years on a green recovery package. This would represent around 50 per cent of a total recovery package amounting to 4 per cent of the UK's annual GDP, and would create an estimated 800,000 jobs, says the Commission. The investment would generate significant financial returns in a couple of years.

The money should be spent in six main areas, argues the Commission:

- Upgrading existing housing stock
- Scaling up renewable energy supply
- Re-designing the National Grid
- Promoting sustainable transport and mobility
- Low-carbon investments in the public sector
- Developing skills for a low-carbon and sustainable economy

"Unless it embraces an ambitious Green New Deal – like the Sustainable Development Commission's proposals – the UK Government has little hope of meeting its own targets for tackling climate change," says Caroline. "Meanwhile, South Korea is devoting 80 per cent of its rescue package to a Green New Deal; China 30 per cent; France 23 per cent and Germany 14 per cent. We have a lot of catching up to do, and only the Green Party is taking the issue seriously."

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ELECTION DAY THURSDAY 4TH JUNE

Green Euro candidates pledging to work for you

For the past ten years Caroline Lucas has represented the South East as a Green MEP. Her dedication, boundless energy and determination have helped to raise the profile of the politics of peace, social justice, and environmental protection, and to build a greater momentum for change. She is standing again for a third term on June 4th.

Keith Taylor, number two on the Green Party list, is campaigning to join Caroline in Brussels as the region's second MEP.

A former Principal Speaker of the Party, Keith polled 22% of the vote for Brighton Pavilion - the highest ever Green vote - at the last general election, paving the way for the Party's first Westminster seat.

Green MEPs have been challenging 'business as usual' in Brussels, standing up to the power of the corporate lobby, and consistently working for more progressive EU laws on everything from anti-discrimination to human rights, from stronger climate laws to greater protection from chemicals and pesticides in our environment. They have also pressed for greater accountability, transparency and democracy within the EU institutions.

Caroline's achievements have included helping bring in laws to force the aviation industry to cap their carbon emissions.

She says, "Although these laws don't go nearly far enough, they do bring to an end the legislative vacuum the sector has somehow managed to enjoy, despite being one of the fastest growing sources of greenhouse gas emissions".

With cancer deaths in Europe rising steeply, Caroline has persuaded

conditions for live exported animals. It's not enough though and she'll keep on working until there's an outright ban.

The South East's second candidate, Keith Taylor, complements Caroline's skills and experience. A prominent campaigner turned councillor, he has been at the forefront of a wide range of successful campaigns - from defending the rights of autistic children to bringing home a local man, Omar Deghayes (see page 8), who was detained without trial at Guantanamo Bay. He has worked on sustainable urban regeneration and community capacity building.

Keith champions human rights across the region, and campaigns for sustainable development. He supported the battle to secure National Park status, which has been newly

granted to protect and preserve our beautiful, rolling South Downs for generations to come.

He has fought against mass medication by the addition of fluoride in our drinking water, and he was a key player in bringing about a democratic shift away from Brighton's directly elected Mayor to a city-wide, all party committee system.

As the Green Party's Principal Speaker (2004-06) Keith had a high nation-

“It's been said that Green MEPs work harder and more effectively than any other politicians in Europe, and I'm proud of our achievements in greening EU legislation. If re-elected, I would hope to build on my successes in the Parliament, and strive to make the EU institutions more democratic, accountable and relevant to EU citizens.

By voting Green in the Euro elections in June 2009, you can help to ensure that environmental sustainability and social justice are placed at the heart of decision-making. With more Green MEPs, we can make an even greater difference and create a better world for people and planet. ”

Caroline Lucas MEP

MEPs it's vital to have an EU task force dedicated to exploring the increasing evidence of the role played by environmental factors in the rise of the disease.

As Vice President of the Parliament's cross-party group on animal protection, she has continued to keep the issue of animal rights high on the Parliament's agenda. Most recently, she has led initiatives to ban the import of seal products into the EU. She has also helped win improvements in the



Cllr Keith Taylor and Caroline Lucas MEP

al profile and toured the UK with his rallying talk 'Dirty, Dangerous and Expensive,' which championed renewable energy and opposed nuclear. He also gained first hand experience working

“Being a Green means not being afraid to push at the boundaries of traditional politics and economics, which all too often are more about protecting vested interests than the common good. We need more Greens in all decision making chambers because if we are not there - championing policies which have people and planet and not profit as priorities - then other parties will try to pretend those arguments don't exist. ”

Cllr Keith Taylor

alongside Caroline for five years as her Liaison Officer. two existing MEPs.

Keith long ago adopted the maxim 'think global, act local' and has the energy and tenacity to follow in the trail-blazing footsteps of Caroline Lucas and Jean Lambert, our

Other Green Party candidates for the South East



Dr Derek Wall is a former Green Party Male Principal Speaker. He is an author and journalist



Cllr Miriam Kennet, co-founder of the Green Economics Institute, is a city councillor in Oxford



Jason Kitcat, a city councillor in Brighton & Hove, is Head of Technology at parenting site Netmums



Hazel Dawe lives in Kent with her husband and is a lecturer at London Metropolitan University



Jonathan Essex, a chartered civil engineer and environmentalist, co-founded Sustainable Redhill



Matthew Ledbury is an adviser on environment issues for a European transport association



Steve Dawe, a part-time Lecturer in Public Administration, is Liaison Officer for Kent and Medway for Caroline Lucas MEP



Beverley Golden, a lawyer representing local authorities and parents in courts in child protection cases

Europe must have a new constitution

It started as a vision to bring peace to post war Europe by binding its nations in an ambitious free trade project. Now the EU is facing unprecedented challenges of climate change and global economic melt-down, and the focus must shift from unrelenting growth to sustainable living, putting people and our environment before profits.

To help Europe to modernise, your Green MEPs are fighting to create a New Constitution.

Over the years politics and red tape have woven themselves into the fabric of the EU constitution, cluttering up its message, watering down its accountability and alienating the very people it is supposed to serve. The problems are so serious and run so deep, amendments and treaties are mere sticking plasters and the only option left is to RIP IT UP AND START AGAIN.

People would be shocked if they knew the power big business wields over the decision-making process in Brussels on matters which affect us all. Green MEPs want to remove the mystery and restore our democratic rights to rein in the corporate lobby and force it to be more accountable.

Imagine an EU leading the world in renewable energies, learning to live more lightly on the planet, and at the cutting edge of a badly needed economic revolution which prevents the greedy and power hungry from messing things up for the rest of us.

Not too much to ask is it? Green MEPs are working to give Europe a radical overhaul, to tackle the serious problems which alienate the Parliament from the people it represents. It must be made more efficient and more accountable if it is to have any chance of tackling the serious challenges which face us in the next couple of decades.

Greens demand action against 15,000 corporate lobbyists

How can the EU be taken seriously as a democratic institution with full accountability to the people it serves when thousands of corporate lobbyists are at large in Brussels, having a major impact on the decision making process?

Take for example the planned laws known as REACH. Described as "the most important piece of EU legislation for twenty years", these are designed to protect us from toxic chemicals used freely by firms in products from clothes to shampoo, from cars to toys.

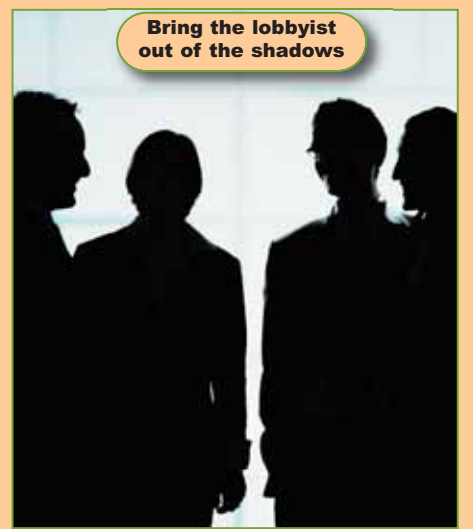
Time and again the legislation was severely watered down by the enormous power and influence of the chemicals lobby.

Loopholes in REACH mean that companies are allowed to carry on importing, producing and using many hazardous substances which have proven links to cancer, hormonal imbalances and birth defects, even when safer alternatives exist.

It's an outrage that these companies which put their profits before the health of people are allowed to have such a major influence on laws which affect us all. Your Green MEPs are not taking it lying down.

Luckily, in June last year, after years of campaigning by the Greens, the EU launched a public register for such lobbyists. The idea was that they declare exactly who they are, who they work for and how much money is involved.

Unluckily the register is voluntary, so only around a



third of the estimated 15 thousand lobbyists in Brussels have signed up. Also the new register doesn't require the naming of individuals. So, the majority still have free rein to operate in the dark. There are also no plans for the register to include meaningful information on how much money is spent on lobbying.

Clearly, in order to win back some of the respect which has been lost by such obvious lapses in transparency and ethics, there's an urgent need for a mandatory register so we can all see exactly what lobbyists are up to.

Greens will press for new regulation to rein in the corporates, to increase the transparency and accountability in Brussels, and to protect public services from corporate control. We need Greens in Europe more than ever before.



Greens want monthly Strasbourg travelling circus scrapped

Taxpayers fork out 200 million Euros a year so the European Parliament can up sticks and move to Strasbourg for four days of every month, by planes, trains and thundering convoys of lorries carrying the paperwork.

Research commissioned by the Green MEP for the South East, Caroline Lucas, found that the wasteful trek produces an extra 20 thousand tonnes of carbon every year, making a mockery of EU efforts to cut emissions by 20 percent by 2020.



Caroline helped...stop waste being dumped in lakes

In 2005 South East MEP Caroline Lucas joined local residents to protest against nPower plans to dump waste ash from Didcot A power station into Radley Lakes.

Radley Lakes are rich in wildlife, but nPower planned to turn the four lakes into a waste disposal site.

nPower's response to the protests was to threaten residents with a number of court injunctions.

Last year nPower, a German-owned multinational, finally backed down.

"The company must have known that many aspects of European legislation covering such issues as the protection of wildlife, waste regulations, standards for power station emissions and



water pollution were all stacked against them.

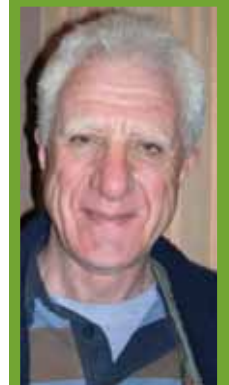
"The residents' campaign

was entirely justified, but it has exposed weaknesses in national legislation that allowed the multinational to

put forward the plans in the first place. It has also prompted me to look at EU laws that are meant to pro-

Protect the environment," said Caroline Lucas MEP.

"I'm voting Green because..."



"...Green MEPs really do work for us."

Paul Brown, an engineer, from East Grinstead

Greens are working for a safer, healthier Europe

Billions are spent on trying to develop cures and ways to alleviate symptoms. Very little attention is paid to WHY ill health is spreading so rapidly in our so-called developed nations.

The clues are in the environment.

For over half a century we've been on a treadmill of intensive agriculture, ditching time-honoured farming methods, forcing our soil to produce more crops faster. It has led to snowballing intervention with artificial fertilisers and pesticides, leaving no time for the soil to recover and replenish.

Similarly, the farming of our livestock has intensi-

fied. We've come to expect cheap and plentiful meat, but the hidden cost is desperately poor standards of animal welfare which means poorer quality food on our plates.

We've had mad cow disease, foot and mouth, salmonella, bird flu. How long will governments ignore nature's warning signs?

Too many chances are being taken with our health. Pollution and toxic chemicals present some of the most serious health concerns of our day. Mobile phone companies continue to put up masts without enough research into the

effects of their radiation.

Luckily, many of Britain's major environmental laws have to comply with European directives. Radical changes are needed to make us safer and healthier and your Green MEPs are working tirelessly for:

FACT: Cancer rates are soaring, as are rates of eczema, asthma, allergies, diabetes, and Alzheimer's.

■ A move from large scale intensive agribusiness to more sustainable and organic local agriculture with high levels of animal welfare.

■ Strict guidelines to control toxic chemicals and giving consumers more information about these.

■ More focus on finding

out the environmental causes of cancer.

Caroline Lucas has used her position as MEP for the South East to commission EU research which reveals that safety guidelines on mobile phone masts are completely inadequate.

In March a Green initiative led to the laws being tightened up on nanotechnology in cosmetics, which is used despite serious concerns about the health risks.

PEOPLE must be put before PROFITS and Greens are needed more than ever in Europe fighting for the right to eat good food, breathe the fresh air and trust rules are put in place to protect us from harmful chemicals and pollutants.



"The health of soil, plant, animal and man is one and indivisible." - Sir Albert Howard, founder of the organic movement.

Greens challenge European laws that threaten further sell offs of the NHS

A Green candidate for the European Parliament has been calling for an investigation into the creeping privatisation of our National Health Service and a change in European laws that allow privately owned continental corporations to take over lucrative parts of the NHS.

Cllr Jason Kitcat says that the European Council and Commission, reinforced by rulings by the European Court of Justice, have progressively regarded health-care as an 'economic activity' which has to be opened to competition and thus to private for-profit interests throughout the EU's internal market.

"Our own government has been all too eager to open the door to these forces, rather than trying to hold it shut. Sadly Member States have rejected calls to create an EU law which would define public services, and outline ways to protect them from the so-called European internal market



rules," says Cllr Kitcat. In the South East, the Labour government's passion for private involvement in public services, a trend first introduced under the Tories, has continued

unabated. Recently the Healthcare Commission raised concerns about the quality of care at the privately run Sussex Orthopaedic Treatment Centre in Haywards Heath. Cllr Kitcat led the question-

ing on this issue at scrutiny committee meetings, resulting in Brighton & Sussex University Hospitals Trust admitting that the privately-run centre was costing them £2-3 million a year in public funds. This is because

independent sector providers can refuse to treat patients it believes are too complex or risky for it to take on. This leaves the NHS to treat the most difficult and expensive cases. Meanwhile Care UK,

which runs the Sussex Orthopaedic Treatment Centre, is paid at a higher rate per procedure than the hospitals, and receives payment based on the estimated number of procedures it expects each year, not the actual number, which has been shown is much lower than the estimates.

Despite these problems, Care UK, which recently featured in Britain's Homecare Scandal: a BBC Panorama Special, continues to be awarded lucrative contracts by the Department of Health to run a range of services across the South East and the rest of the country.

The concerns raised by Cllr Kitcat over the selection of Care UK and the introduction of a GP clinic in Brighton and Hove, one of over 150 imposed on the country by Labour health minister Lord Darzi, has led the local city council to create a cross-party scrutiny panel to investigate the issue in detail.

"I'm voting Green because..."



"...because I want a planet for my children to live in."

Peter Lloyd, student from Oxford

Caroline helped...prevent the installation of a phone mast

The intervention of Caroline Lucas MEP helped a Berkshire residents' group successfully prevent T-Mobile from installing a mobile phone mast close to the entrance of a wildlife area.

WHAM, Warfield Homeowners Against the Mast, campaigned to stop the installation of a phone mast at Larks Hill, next to a well-used cycle lane and close to a nursery school.

One constituent, Bill Milton, said: "only the Green Party rallied to help with what we all considered to be an unfair planning application." The Borough Council's rejection of two applications on the same site went to Appeal on both occasions and the decisions to disallow the applications were upheld. Campaigners are convinced that support from their Green MEP played a key role. They want the EU to fund research into the health



implications of living near a mast, especially to children, and introduce rules that encourage a precautionary approach to the siting of masts.

UK must invest more in renewable energy sources say Greens

A strong Green voice elected to the European Parliament on June 4th is essential if the pressure is to be kept on the UK government to invest more in renewable energy and so catch up with other countries in Europe, says Green Party leader Caroline Lucas MEP.

Earlier this year, Spain set a new record for wind power generation, with output momentarily reaching 40% of the country's electricity consumption. The country, along with neighbouring Portugal, has seen a revolution in renewable power, with massive investments in wind, solar, hydro and wave technology. Innovative projects like the PS-10 solar thermal project near Seville show what is possible.

Both countries have benefited from feed in tariffs (FIT) by which power distributors are obliged to buy electricity production from renewable power producers at favourable rates over a 20 year period. Germany has also benefited from a FIT scheme, which has made it the world's biggest solar producer, just ahead of Spain.

Despite some renewable energy producers facing

financing problems due to the credit crunch, the renewable energy revolution in Europe is set to speed up,

trade - means that countries can meet a large part of their

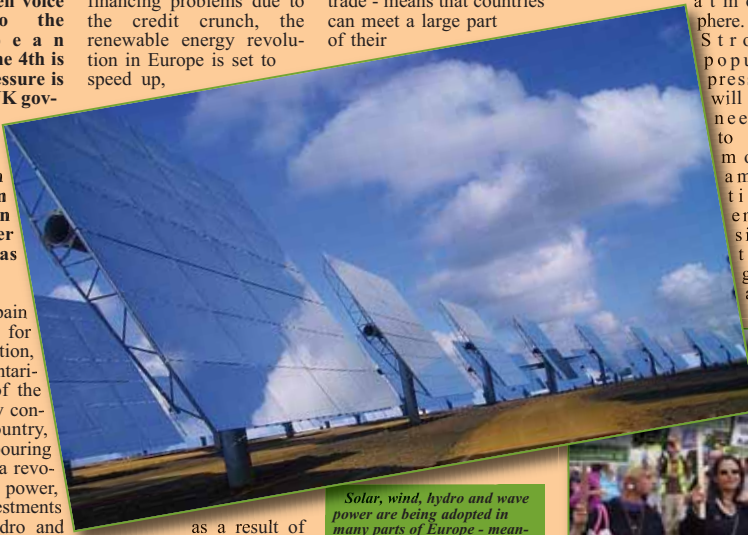
atmosphere. Strong popular pressure will be needed to set more ambitious emissions targets, and to

will produce 15% of its energy from renewables by 2020, compared to 49% in Sweden, 31% in Portugal and 23% in France. The government has made "greening" its policy, establishing the Department of Energy and Climate

to wait another year for feed in tariffs given the urgency of the task.

The government has also broken its promises by caving in to business lobbies and approving a third Heathrow runway. And it seems close to approving the Kingsnorth coal fired power station, fatally undermining the UK's credibility in the run up to the Copenhagen climate change negotiations in December.

Developing clean, sustainable energy sources is essential for combating climate change and ending our dependency on expensive, polluting fossil fuels that increase geopolitical tension and leave us at the mercy of unscrupulous speculators. Only the Green Party can be relied on to consistently push Britain forward towards the kind of innovative solutions that are being tried elsewhere in Europe.



Solar, wind, hydro and wave power are being adopted in many parts of Europe - meanwhile Gordon Brown's Labour government have been pushing for a coal-fired power station to be built at Kingsnorth, which brought out Green Party protesters, right, who were addressed by MEP Caroline Lucas

as a result of the EU's 20:20:20 directives, which member states adopted in December.

Green Euro MP Claude Turmes - the parliament's rapporteur on the renewables directive - played a key role in pushing through the new agreement, through which the EU has agreed to cut their CO2 emissions by 20%, increase energy efficiency by 20% and produce 20% of their power from renewable energy sources, all by 2020.

The directives are not perfect. The European Emissions Trading (ETS) scheme - known as cap and

CO2 targets by buying emissions certificates from other countries and dodge their responsibility to curb their own output. This means that countries will be a long way from meeting the 25-40% domestic emissions cuts that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) says is necessary to stabilise the carbon dioxide content of the earth's



ensure that member countries meet their energy efficiency and renewables targets.

Unfortunately, the UK is far behind some of its European neighbours. Less than 1.5% of its energy currently comes from renewables, compared to almost 40% in Sweden and 20% in Portugal. Under the 20:20:20 targets, Britain

Change (DECC), passing the climate change bill and promising the introduction of feed in tariffs in April 2010.

But there are big holes in the government's rhetoric. Despite setting ambitious emissions targets, the government has so far failed to meet them, and solar energy producers are asking why the government is prepared

Stop water Barons making millions - bring industry back into public ownership



The water industry should be returned to the not-for-profit sector and funded properly by central government, says Green South East Euro Candidate Keith Taylor.

"What used to be a public service is now a nice little earner. South East Water, for example, had an operating profit of nearly £50 million on a turnover of £164 million in 2007/08. Net profit was £24.1 million and £28 million was paid out in dividends. The managing director was paid

£212,000 in salary, benefits and bonuses.

"To make matters worse, water companies in the South East are ignoring the effects of the recession on their customers and introducing price increases way above inflation," adds Keith. "And they are doing it with the blessing of the Labour government and the permission of OFWAT, which is a water industry poodle rather than a customer watchdog."

Mid Kent Water is putting up its prices by a whacking

7.9 per cent, Southern Water by 5 per cent and South East Water by 3 per cent. Meanwhile, water companies at large lost almost 20 per cent of their water supply in leaks in the system in 2007/2008.

"Greens believe an affordable water supply is a human right," says Keith. "Already, less well-off families are finding it hard to pay their water bills alongside other rising utility and food bills. Where necessary, water should be subsidised to meet basic human needs."

Brussels needs a strong Green presence to fight for human rights



We need Caroline Lucas in Brussels to help us halt climate destruction with concerted and imaginative policies, says Peter Tatchell, gay activist and the Green Party's Parliamentary Candidate for Oxford East.

"Britain's Green MEPs work hard for co-ordinated Europe-wide action on energy conservation to cut household fuel bills and to promote safe, clean and cheap renewable energy. If you want England to remain a green and pleasant land, support the Green Party."

Phelim MacCafferty, the Green's National Spokesperson for lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans (LGBT) issues, says we need strong Green champions of LGBT rights like Caroline "in a Europe where sexual minorities are treated unfairly."

During her ten years as a Green MEP Caroline has:

- Campaigned successfully to stop the deportation of Mehdi Kazemi, a gay Iranian, and Iranian lesbian Pegah Emambakhsh. Both faced certain execution had they been returned to Iran
- Opposed a Conservative-led EU climb-down over

outlawing homophobia and ageism

- Denounced and called for an investigation into violence at Budapest Pride
- Demanded the UN Human Rights Council adopt a resolution requiring worldwide decriminalisation of homosexuality.
- Campaigned for our embassies to support Pride events in Eastern Europe.

"I'm voting Green because..."





Green Party

How to vote in a European election

Every Green vote matters and will go towards electing hard working Green MEPs. Your vote really counts thanks to the way in which they are counted for elections to the European Parliament.

You have only one vote to use in this election. The ballot paper will list the parties you can vote for. All you need to do is put a cross next to the party you want to vote for. That's it.

The names of the candidates will be presented under the party name on the ballot paper, but remember you must mark the X (cross) against the party name.

The counting system used is not perfectly proportional but, in essence, parties win seats in the European Parliament in relation to the number of votes they receive. The more seats a party wins the harder the counting system makes it for them to win more – so increasing the diversity of parties winning seats.

Each party will have chosen up to ten candidates for the South East region and ordered them from 1 to 10. The first seat won by the party goes to the first candidate on its list, the second seat to the second candidate and so on.

Voting in County elections

In some parts of the country there are county elections on June 4th too. Those elections are conducted under the first past the post electoral system. Depending where you live you may have up to three candidates for whom you may vote by placing an X against their names.

For more information about registering and voting visit the Electoral Commission's website: www.aboutmyvote.co.uk

Transport must be managed in new National Park say Greens

Green MEP Caroline Lucas has welcomed the decision to make the South Downs a National Park – but said it will be vital to manage the transport needs of the expected increase in tourists, and to protect local jobs.

In March it was announced that an area stretching from Hampshire to East Sussex would be designated as England's ninth National Park in 2011 – meaning much of the stunning Downland landscape will be protected from future development.

It is hoped the new National Park will bring thousands of visitors from

across the world to the unique South-East of England – and that this will enhance the local economy and bring new jobs to the region.

Dr Lucas, who has been campaigning for better protection for the region's unspoiled landscape and habitats since she was first elected to the European Parliament ten years ago, said: "It's baffling that we've had to wait almost 60 years for it, but I welcome this decision to finally give the South Downs area the highest possible level of environmental protection.

"It's vital that as well as preventing new develop-



Photo courtesy: David Gray.

ments which might impact on the landscape, the new National Park Authority manages transport in the park to make sure we don't see an increased burden on our already-congested road network.

"This decision represents a massive achievement for the dedicated South Downs Campaign, which has fought long and hard to

make this a reality for residents and visitors to the area."

Caroline said she would be working hard at EU level to ensure the final park boundaries reflect all areas of natural significance, and that the Government sets the park – and a new National Park Authority – swiftly.

Keith Taylor and Caroline Lucas fought to free Guantanamo Bay detainee

Euro candidate Cllr Keith Taylor was an early recruit to the fight to free a local man from the notorious Camp Orange at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba.

Approached by local human rights activist Jackie Chase, Keith quickly agreed to put down a motion to Brighton and Hove City Council seeking the return of Omar Deghayes. The motion, which was carried with unanimous support, led to a growing involvement of the party to secure the former Saltdean resident's release.

"The support of the Green Party was incredibly important to the campaign," said Jackie Chase, "and news of that support reached Omar



Shortly after his release from Guantanamo Bay Omar Deghayes was happy to pose at his home near Brighton with Keith Taylor who had campaigned for his release

in his cell via his lawyer, Clive Stafford Smith. He has told me that it really helped sustain him during his six years' incarceration."

South East MEP Caroline Lucas helped keep up the pressure on the George Bush administration by taking up the detainee's cause in the European Parliament.

"This was an appalling case of an abuse of human rights. Omar was snatched from Pakistan and ended up in Guantanamo Bay where he remained in solitary confinement for three years. Like many other prisoners he was water-boarded and lost an eye when a guard used pepper spray. No one could fail to be moved by this brave man's endurance," said Keith Taylor.

Where to catch the Green Party bus



May 8	Southampton	Eastleigh	Winchester
May 9	Basingstoke	Petersfield	Brighton
May 10	Bracknell	Wokingham	
May 11	High Wycombe	Henley on Thames	Maidenhead
May 12	Addlestone	Weybridge	Esher
May 13	Horsham	Haywards Heath	Burgess Hill
May 14	Hastings	Uckfield	Forest Row
May 15	Redhill	Reigate	Dorking
May 16	Tonbridge	Tunbridge Wells	Crowborough
May 17	Maidstone	Sevenoaks	
May 18	Rochester	Chatham	Gillingham
May 19	Bicester	Witney	Abingdon
May 20	Oxford	Aylesbury	Staines
May 21	Reading	Guildford	Godalming
May 22	Portsmouth	Chichester	Littlehampton
May 23	Shoreham	Brighton	Hove
May 24	Brighton		
May 25	Brighton		

Want to know more?

We need your support

Green Party

1. We would like to give a monthly amount of: £2 £5 £10 £15 £20 £25 £30 £35 £40 £45 £50

2. We would like to give an amount of: £10 £20 £30 £40 £50

3. I would like to give an amount of: £10 £20 £30 £40 £50

4. I would like to give an amount of: £10 £20 £30 £40 £50

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