

MIDLOTHIAN GREENS BRANCH NEWS



Scottish Green Party

JUNE 2019

EU ELECTIONS 2019 OPINION

B*****s to B****!

'My milkshake brings all the fascists to the yard' should have been the no1 chart hit in the UK this May.

While it is so easy to mock the Brexit party and its lack of a manifesto or a single policy, should we not be more worried by their rise in the polls despite this.

I had the displeasure of rubbing shoulders with Brexit MP hopefuls in my local count. I listened as they explained to a local SNP councillor how it was difficult for them to come to the decision not to buy a third home. They decided to sell their individual homes and buy a home

together in Midlothian when their relationship became serious. They were in their early 20s.

I am not jealous. I just think they don't represent anyone I have ever met (or will meet in my life). And I am a 45 year-old successful business person.

Who would vote for them? Do people know what they

are voting for? Do they know that these are Thatcher's children (and grandchildren). They do not believe in society: 'There is no such thing as society'; they do not support the social welfare safety net; they want rid of the welfare state. Who really would vote for them if they truly knew who they were?



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EU Election results 2019

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|----------------------------------|-------|
| Scottish National Party: | 9,773 |
| The Brexit Party: | 3,709 |
| Liberal Democrats: | 3,463 |
| Labour Party: | 3,261 |
| Conservative and Unionist Party: | 2,405 |
| Scottish Green Party: | 2,379 |
| Change UK: | 596 |
| UKIP: | 550 |
| Gordon Edgar Independent: | 111 |
| Ken Parke Independent: | 41 |

Total number of ballot papers counted in Midlothian: 26,373.
The turnout was 38.2%.

Our next branch meeting
is on **Thursday 13 June**
at **Loanhead Library,**
7.00pm – 9.00pm

*Copyright: Sir Vince Cable

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We were told by the Prime Minister that 'Brexit means Brexit' however the real meaning of Brexit is still yet to be revealed. The Brexit bus has transpired to have really meant; 'Instead of sending £350 million a week to the EU, lets sell off our NHS to the US for a trade deal instead.' Brexit has become a vote against the welfare state, a vote against society.

The government, aided by the media has almost managed to radicalise a nation – the rise of the far right in the UK is not a false alarm. In this day and age we should not have to shout over voices of hate. Hate divides us and allows those who own and control to maximise their positions.

We have allowed this hate to grow like a weed and then we act

surprised that our lawns are filled with them. This is not immediately apparent in our communities. However, talk to those in your your community and you will see, this hatred has impregnated and persuaded the kindest of people and it will shock you to realise that some of your dearest neighbours have been changed by mainstream media's normalisation of racism and our government's rhetoric. Last year

• **Last year saw the highest jump in children being excluded from school due to racist bullying and that number is rising at a faster rate than student population growth.**

saw the highest jump in children being excluded from school due to racist bullying and that number is rising at a faster rate than student population growth. Is this the type of society we want to bring our children up in?

The Midlothian Green Party works with and for you. We are for society, for social justice and for futures for everyone. Please come and join us, we need you more than ever now.

Did you know..?

Ten popular bathing waters around the southern Scottish coastline are so badly contaminated with human and animal faeces that they are a danger to public health, according to the Scottish Government's environment watchdog. According to Sepa's latest report on 31 May four bathing waters have now been rated as poor for the last four years in a row. They are Fisherrow Sands, near Musselburgh in East Lothian; Harbour Beach at Kinghorn in Fife; Sandyhills near Dalbeattie in Dumfries and Galloway; and Heads of Ayr on the Ayrshire coast. Other beaches that have been rated 'poor' for 2019 include three in Dumfries and Galloway: Brighthouse Bay and Dhoon Bay near Kirkcudbright and Rockcliffe near Dalbeattie. South Beach in Ayr and Eyemouth in Scottish Borders were also assessed as poor. The beach at Irvine in North Ayrshire failed for the first time in four years, having previously been deemed 'sufficient'.

Source: *The Ferret*

2019 Policy Day

15 June, 2019, 10.00am – 4.00pm

AK Bell Library, 2–8 York Place, Perth

Scottish Green Party policy comes from its members.

To help policy making more inclusive the Policy Committee organises an annual policy day which is open to all members of the party. This year's annual Policy Day is on Saturday 15th June in Perth and it may still be possible to book a place on the SGP website.



Why I'm a Green Party member

I'm Jill Simon and I would like to introduce myself as one of the dynamic duo, along with Helen Blackburn, who were elected in May as Midlothian Green Party co-conveners.

I am a businesswoman who has tried to push the boundaries in a highly competitive industry to show that a more environmentally-minded business cannot just flourish, it can excel.

My catering business, 11 years in the making, has increased its profits by 5-7% while increasing its workforce by a third, all down to our sustainable practices. We have had some advice and help from the government to quantify our achievements: we now know we divert 1 kilo of carbon for every £15 of sales compared to our competitors.

But if the government were serious about tackling the climate crisis then there would be some real-time support for businesses, not just an offer of interest-free loans but real policy change at a government level to tackle issues such as the overuse and reliance on plastics that we cannot recycle, a ban on palm oil and other products that are behind the destruction of our planet's rainforests, more grants to enable businesses to produce their own energy, and initiatives and networks set up to encourage and promote more local supplies of food. Over the last decade the government has claimed it is promoting a just transition into a green economy; I bear witness that this just isn't happening.

That is one of the reasons I decided to join the Scottish Green Party. I felt, as a green business woman, I was doing all

I could to create a viable green business yet my commitments were not being reciprocated by the government.

The business model is there - sustainability is much more successful in creating jobs and a better quality of life. We also need a level playing field when it comes to business competition. Large corporations avoiding paying tax needs to stop, it not only thwarts the growth of smaller businesses, it deprives the government (and therefore us) of billions in tax. We need to

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put a stop to elite tax dodging. The Green Party understands the importance of sustainable development.

Our society has been coerced into believing that it is not capable of better things, that a green economy is just a pipe dream and a fantasy. This will continue to be the case while we have governments in power who do nothing but pay lip service

to the climate crisis we face, who have no real plans in place and whose answer is to just tax people. We also need to redefine 'profit', from being a number on a spreadsheet to a smile of gratitude from those who needed your time which you gave freely without bearing any cost. We need a GDP that reflects the health of our people not just the wealth of the elite.

I want us to grow our active membership in Midlothian; I know many people who have the same concerns that we all have and it is more important than ever we get the green message across. The Scottish Green Party, together with the global Greens strength, is one of our best chances of solving the international climate crisis we are already facing today. I hope to see you at our next meeting!

Jillian Simon



Right: Seen in Moffat recently; the truth is out there!

News Briefs

Britain has set another new record by powering on without the use of coal for a fortnight.

National Grid Electricity System Operator (ESO) confirmed the coal-free operation of the UK's electricity system, after surpassing the previous record of 193 hours and 25 minutes – or eight days, one hour and 25 minutes which was set on May 9.

The last coal generator came off the system at 3.12pm on 17th May 2019 and with coal plants taking up to six hours to warm up and become available, it means Britain reached a fortnight without coal at 3.12pm on May 30.

Source: Energy News website

Scotland could be in the grips of a climate apocalypse 'by as early as 2030'

That's the chilling prediction from Francesca Osowska, CEO of Scottish Natural Heritage, who in a lecture to the Royal Society of Edinburgh warned abandoned villages, dying forests, massive erosion and polluted waterways will all be part of the potential "nightmare landscape" of the future.

She said a nature-rich future was the "best

insurance against climate emergency" and stressed "this is a critical moment for nature and the environment".

In her speech, she noted while major shifts in climate and nature are not unusual in the geological record, the rate of the current shift is both "unprecedented and phenomenal".

Source: The Ferret

Please share your green issue Tweets and Facebook posts and please send in pieces for inclusion in this, **your** branch newsletter.



Midlothian Greens Branch Meetings 2019

We meet once a month, on alternating Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 7.00pm to 9.00pm. **The meeting is open to everyone.** Below you can see the planned meetings for the rest of the year and the venue. If you need transport please get in touch and we can arrange a lift for you.

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|-----------------------------|---|
| Thursday 13 June | Loanhead Library |
| Tuesday 9 July | St John's and King's Park Church, Dalkeith |
| Thursday 8 August | Loanhead Library |
| Tuesday 10 September | Penicuik Town Hall |
| Thursday 10 October | Loanhead Library |
| Tuesday 12 November | St John's and King's Park Church, Dalkeith |
| Thursday 12 December | Loanhead Library |



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