



Midlothian Green Party Newsletter



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December 2020

Where to now?

Let's make 2021 another memorable one – for good reasons!

As the year ends, with the promised roll-out of vaccines for Covid-19 and the eviction of Donald Trump from the Big Brother house a potential tv special in the new year, we can now admit some level of optimism about 2021, can't we?

Because we do have reasons to be cheerful, in Scotland and closer to home here in Midlothian. Although we no longer have a Green councillor – something we'll remedy in 2022! – it becomes obvious that those local campaigns and initiatives advocated by Ian Baxter during his time on the council are becoming increasingly important to the people of Midlothian. And the same call for a Green transformation is patently apparent across Scotland, the UK and the world.

Climate change, the loss of habitats, sustainability in energy production, the economic system, transport and housing,

land use and ownership, animal and human rights, these and others are all issues of importance to us, and the Scottish Green party has been fighting for change in the Scottish Parliament, as have Greens on local councils and in communities across the country, from the largest city to the smallest village.

In Midlothian Green Party members are active on community councils, on the recently convened Climate Emergency Group and the Esk River Improvement Group. In Penicuik local members are involved with the Storehouse project and the town hall renovation campaign. The decision, a few years back, not

to go ahead with a massive film studio complex in Damhead was due to no small part being played by local Greens and our Green MSPs, Alison Johnstone and Andy Wightman.

Grassroots activism gets things done. As individuals we can be local activists and we don't need to wear badges or tee-shirts proclaiming our political allegiance. Those we work with will come to know where we stand politically as we get to know them and that is more likely to get them interested than any political rhetoric. So get active where you are! And if you can help out with the Holyrood campaign for the Greens (see over) that's great!



Holyrood 2021

A big 'thank you' to all who offered to deliver the first batch of Holyrood campaign leaflets! We're expecting the next edition at some point in January and would be appreciative of some help in getting these distributed. We'll let you know when they're available and where we'd like them to be distributed.



And another fantastic reason to be cheerful! On 22 January 2021 we should no longer have nuclear weapons convoys going through Midlothian.

It should be the end of horrendous tailbacks behind twenty vehicle convoys negotiating the narrow Hillend junction. And the queues following the convoys to their lunch dates at Glencorse Barracks should be a thing of the past.

We live in hope that on 22 January, when the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) comes into force, 'security' will be based **not** on possession, transport, hosting of nuclear weapons, but on a future Scottish State signing up to the TPNW.

When 50 States ratified the TPNW after 120 had signed up to it in 2017, the vision of a world without nuclear weapons became more real. And in this year of the pandemic, when health, housing, food, schooling and education, indeed **humanity**, take centre stage, we recognise that the post-war consensus on definitions of 'security' are outdated concepts.

So we move to elections in May 2021 with a vision of a Scottish State: the State! There is no other way we can remove those convoys, end the lunacy of Faslane and Coulport, or terminate the obscene expenditure on Trident renewal. Labour and Tory UK Governments accepted renewal. **A Green Government of Scotland will sign up to the TPNW and end this moral and ethical outrage.**



We will be continuing our monthly meetings via Zoom in 2021. The next social get-together is on **Tuesday January 5** and the next branch meeting is on **January Thursday 14**. We'll let you know in advance how to attend these meetings on your phone, tablet or pc.

Stay safe over the Christmas and Hogmanay period and we'll see you in the new year!



Please share your **Tweets, Facebook** and **Instagram posts** and send in contributions for inclusion in this, **your** branch newsletter.



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