

# Newsletter

of the Alliance for Green Socialism – September 2014  
www.greensocialist.org.uk



## ECOSOCIALISM 2014

Wigan Sun 14 September

## AGS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

London Sat 18 October

The Ecosocialism 2014 event is this year in Wigan, home of the famous pier. It is at Gerrard Winstanley Place, The Wiend, Wigan, WN1 1NH, in the centre of Wigan. It runs from 10:30 to 17:30.

There will be high profile speakers including Jonathan Neale of CCAC and Chris Baugh of PCS. but the event will be based on workshops: fracking & extreme energy, growth v sustainability, food sovereignty, austerity & inequality, Transatlantic Trade & Investment "Partnership".

Ecosocialism 2014 is organised by a range of groups including the Alliance for Green Socialism, Wigan Green Socialists, and the Green Left faction of the Green Party.

*Don't forget the Wigan Diggers Festival the previous day: Saturday 13 October, at the same venue. Great fun. Come to both.*

### TOLPUDDLE & BURSTON

Our Green Socialist Editor ran AGS stalls at both the Tolpuddle Martyrs Festival at the end of July and at the Burston School Strike Rally in August. Some interest from people attending, some sales of GS, and some new contacts, plus the opportunity to speak briefly over the mike.

Offers of help for next year, at either event, would be very much appreciated. John's details are below.

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This year's AGS conference is on Saturday 18 October in London at the Calthorpe Arms, Grays Inn Road, Kings Cross, WC1X 8JR. The conference starts at 11:00 and will finish by 17:00, immediately followed by a social with some music.

All members of the AGS and its affiliates are warmly invited to come and to take part in setting AGS policy and electing its officers and national committee.

As already notified, rule change motions must be received by the Secretary (details below) by **13 September**. Policy motions must reach the Secretary by **4 October** (although sending them in earlier would be very helpful).

Nominations for officers (Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Editor of Green Socialist and Press Officer) and for the three directly elected members of the national committee should reach the Secretary, if possible, by 11 October. You can nominate any AGS or affiliate member, including yourself.

AGS groups and affiliates should let the Secretary know before conference who is to represent them on the national committee for the coming year.

### POOLED FARE

As usual, a pooled fare system will operate for conference so as not to exclude comrades who may have a long way to come. Everyone ends up paying the same for travel, based on the standard coach fare.

The pooled fare is mandatory for everyone attending conference. If your coach fare is more than the average, the difference will be **paid to you** from the pool. If it is less than the average, you will **pay into** the pool.

Needless to say, you don't have to travel by coach if you prefer some other means of travel, but the pooled fare is based on the coach fare.

Usually the average is around £10, so it should not break the bank.

Meetings of the national committee are normally open to any member to observe. Meetings are on Saturdays, most often at the Calthorpe Arms or Lucas Arms in Kings Cross, London:

**ANNUAL CONFERENCE Sat 18 Oct 2014  
Calthorpe Arms, Grays Inn Rd, WC1X 8QR**

NC 15 Nov 2014 Calthorpe Arms, London WC1X 8JR **12:00**

NC 10 Jan 2015 Calthorpe Arms, London WC1X 8JR **13:15**

NC 21 Mar 2015 Calthorpe Arms, London WC1X 8JR **12:00**

NC 23 May 2015 venue tba, London **13:15**

## **EPPING FOREST**

AGS affiliates Epping Forest Green & Democratic Left held a successful public meeting on the National Health Service on 2 September.

To look forward to in November, there is an EFGDL fund-raising social, with live music and entertainment. Saturday 15 November, Golden Lion, Borders Lane, Loughton, IG10 1TE. Eight till late.

## **LEEDS**

This year's Leeds AGS garden party in August, at a new venue and with a new real ale, raised over £350 for group funds - sorely needed in the light of next year's elections.

The next Leeds AGS meeting is, as usual, at 7.30pm on the third Tuesday, 16 September, at Swarthmore Centre, Woodhouse Square, Leeds LS3 1AD. The topic is **Food: supply, security, quality**.

Nominations are invited for Leeds parliamentary and local election candidates for the 2015 elections. The deadline is Monday 29 September. Selection of candidates will be at the members meeting at 7.30pm on Tuesday 21 October at Swarthmore.

The October meeting will also have a speaker on **TTIP**, the disastrous proposed EU/US treaty that will allow corporations to sue governments who try to protect their workers or consumers. Bye bye safety, hello chlorine chicken and GM food.

## **AGS TERRORISTS ???**

As reported in the August Newsletter, we have an ongoing private prosecution against Igas Energy PLC, one of the leading fracking companies in Britain. The prosecution alleges obstruction of a public footpath with a ten foot fence topped with razor wire. Igas has asked the Director of Public Prosecutions (effectively the CPS) to "take over" this prosecution and drop it. (Nasty AGS, prosecuting poor innocent fracking company!) The CPS process has proven remarkable.

To begin with, the case was considered by the Counter Terrorism section of the north west CPS. That's right, the Counter Terrorism section! We had not been aware that prosecuting a fracking company was regarded as terrorism.

Secondly, they found the case so difficult in Manchester that now (after two months) it has been referred to the CPS at national level to decide. Maybe the Crown Prosecution Service need to ask MI5 what to do.

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Also on the private prosecutions, we have now been granted permission for judicial review of the decision of Manchester magistrates to refuse to issue summonses against the police for aiding and abetting obstruction. The judge granting permission made some very helpful observations in doing so. We must have a good chance of winning the review.

The reason given by the magistrate had been that "it was unfair to prosecute the police", effectively asserting that the police had immunity from prosecution. That is, of course, a hugely important issue and had to be challenged. Police immunity is one of the classic foundations of a police state.

## **NORTH LONDON**

North London AGS held a meeting in August on "A strategy for the left".

Details of the next meeting will be in the local newsletter.

## **2013/14 National Committee members**

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