

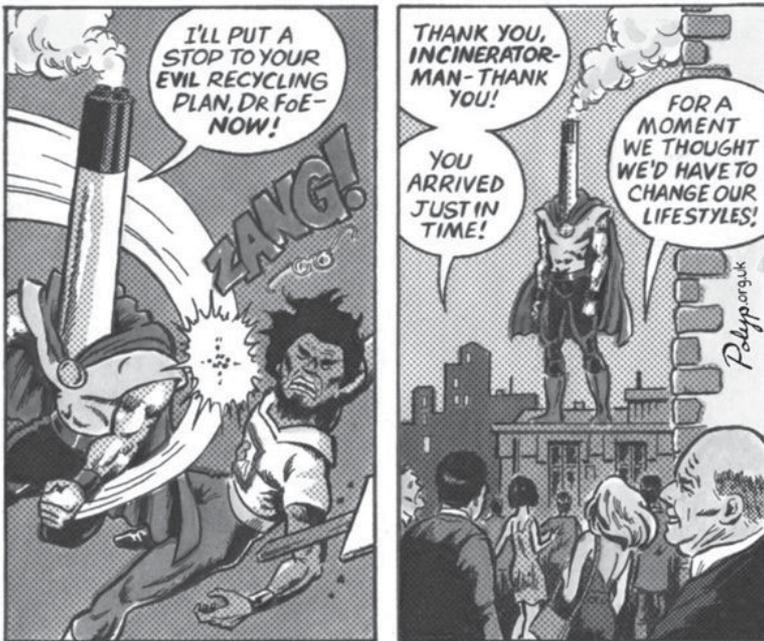
Leeds

# GreenLight



The Newsletter of Leeds Green Party

April 2012



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## Oppose the incinerator

The city council is planning to build a waste incinerator in south Leeds. It will burn 180,000 tonnes of rubbish each year. We think this is the wrong approach. We should be finding ways to reduce the amount of refuse we produce. We could start by obliging the supermarkets to package all their products in recyclable plastics (if they need packaging at all).

The incinerator will be run by private contractors Veolia. They run a similar plant in Sheffield. The city council there tied itself into a 30 year contract. But as people recycled more waste there wasn't enough to feed the hungry incinerator. This meant that waste from outside the city had to be brought in by truck. Sheffield's recycling rate is around 28% while other councils in South Yorkshire manage about 40%.

### Health risk

Incinerators also produce dangerous air pollutants – dioxins, heavy metals and particulates associated with asthma and bronchitis. The ash which remains still has to be sent to landfill (about one third of the original waste). Because it is ash there is more likelihood that toxins will leach out and cause contamination.

## Petrolheads in the Town Hall?

Labour Councillor Richard Lewis has just announced that 11 out of the 16 unofficial car parks in Holbeck Urban Village can remain open for another five years. Some 16 car parks have been operating in the area without planning permission. Initially the council said it would close them in order to encourage greater commuter use of public transport. The council has now done a U-turn of its own.

The Labour-run council does almost nothing to move the city away from reliance on the private car. When Burley Road was upgraded nothing was done to provide better facilities for safe cycling. Bikes were expected to share road space with buses. There are no plans to give cyclists their own space on the A65 Kirkstall Road, which is currently being upgraded. The council has no plans to alleviate the daily congestion on the A660 Otley Road through Headingley.

## Greens winning around the world

It's true – Green parties around the globe are winning elections. In Canada Elizabeth May has been elected as the country's first Green MP. In Germany the Green party holds power in the state of Baden-Württemberg. In the Australian Senate the Greens have nine seats.

And, of course, our leader Caroline Lucas became the first Green MP ever. In Brighton the Greens run the council.

## Policies that people like

Our policies have broad popular support. Take a look at [www.voteforpolicies.org](http://www.voteforpolicies.org). In the run-up to the 2010 election Green policies had greater support than any other party. But we need to convert that support into real votes. If you want a better city and a decent future for your children then please give us your vote in the local elections on 3rd May. Thank you.



# Fair is worth fighting for

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# Occupy the future



So how do you support the principles of the Occupy movement without giving up your job or studies and living in a tent for weeks on end? The Green Party has a long record of campaigning for social and environmental justice. Take a look.

**Contact the Greens in Headingley**

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**Web:** [headingley.greenparty.org.uk](http://headingley.greenparty.org.uk)

## ***Demands of Occupy St Paul's***    **Green Party policy**

*Refusal to pay for the banks' crisis*

Stricter regulation of financial sector. Limits on bonuses for state owned banks. Create a green investment bank and local community banks.

*Cuts not necessary*

Cuts to vital public services are wrong and will not cut the deficit. They increase spending on benefits, increase unemployment and reduce government revenues.

*End global tax injustice*

It is estimated that there is \$11 trillion sitting offshore. Wealthy corporations and individuals keep that money hidden from tax authorities. Greens argue for the closure of tax havens.

*Defend health, welfare and education*

The Green party has consistently opposed the privatisation of the NHS. This was begun by Labour and continued by the Tory/LibDem coalition.

*Stop the arms trade*

We oppose the global trade in weapons. We would cancel Trident and the two aircraft carriers Britain is currently building (for which there are currently no aircraft).

*Structural change for global equality*

Greens campaign for fair world trade to enable developing countries to escape from poverty.

## **Care for people and planet, not the military, corporate profits or the rich.**

We argue for a Green New Deal. This would build new affordable housing, generate electricity from renewable resources and get people back in work.

Here in Leeds we're building a party that's strong enough to take part in this fight. But that means winning votes and seats locally. Remember, the journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.



## **Premature deaths**

Air pollution from cars could be the cause of 50,000 premature deaths in the UK every year. These aren't our figures – they come from a report by the Parliamentary Environment Audit Committee in 2010.



The effects of excessive traffic through Headingley are hard to avoid: noise, smoky air, congestion, road accidents.

The Green Party wants to change all that – we are calling for better public transport including improved regional railways. We also want physically separated cycle tracks along main roads. After all, when we walk we use the pavement – why should cyclists share space with giant lorries? When cycling feels safe lots more people will get on their bike. We know that many people would like to cycle. And why not? It's cheap, healthy, often it's the quickest way to get around, and it's fun. But lots of would-be cyclists are put off by fear of being hit by a car or truck. It's time



*An average afternoon in Headingley*

the council made proper provision for bikes. That includes a 20 mph speed limit on roads where people live. That would also make the streets safer for pedestrians.