



Cllr. Rupert Read
Green Party lead candidate for Eastern Region in 2008 Euro-elections
(Picture above taken at the Green Party National Conference, Sept 2008)

e-Newsletter October 2008

edited by Paul Roome

A message from Rupert: “Earlier this month I visited Huntingdon in Cambridgeshire to speak at an important rally at an NHS Hospital threatened with privatisation. This opportunity was cleverly arranged for me by the local Green Party, at the invitation of the Trades Union folk there who organised the rally. It was a strong opportunity to speak to a large number of people passionately about why they need to know about our message, about our support for their cause...

It is now less than 8 months until E-Day, Euro-election polling day and *Now* is a good time to start thinking about getting speaker-engagements for Eastern Region Green Party Euro-list-candidates. Any meeting or event where there is an important audience, or an audience more than usually likely to be Green-sympathetic potentially, or any large audience, is worth thinking about as a possible 'venue'/occasion. And then we can do press around the fact that we are going to be speaking there, too, and multiply the effect.

Let me remind you who your Euro-list candidates are:

Herts & Beds: Marc Scheimann.
Essex: Peter Lynn, James Abbott, Angela Thomson.
Suffolk: Andrew Stringer.
Ipswich area: Amy Drayson.
Norfolk (and Cambs): Rupert Read.

If an event is important enough I am potentially fully willing and able to go *anywhere* in the Region, with enough notice. Unlike most of the other list candidates, I have a great deal of potentially-free time, from now right through to June 4th!

In sum: Do get worthwhile platforms for your relevant GP list candidate(s), if possible, from now on!

Thanks, Rupert.”

The Economic Crisis / A Green New Deal?

Below are a selection of excerpts from Rupert's numerous pieces on the current banking crisis and the logical way out of the current spiral of economic madness. Click the tinyurl links for the full articles.

Saturday, 11th October

The Rooseveltian Moment: The Darling rescue plan is a half-baked start, probably better than nothing, although not a lot. Its proposal of an option of part-nationalisation of any and all commercial banks is an attempt by the Government to step in the right direction, although it is absurd that vast amounts more of taxpayers' money should be potentially going into the banks without giving us any control over them. Without such control, there is absolutely no guarantee that they will start lending to businesses or to each other.

And so this begs the further crucial question: Why should such a nationalisation be only temporary? Why should we allow commercial banks to profit rampantly in the good times, and sooner or later start speculating again, pushing the envelope, ramping up the risks and precipitating fresh bubbles or crises? <http://tinyurl.com/3hnfcv>

Monday, 13th October

An epochal change in our political culture: Here is a good place to start. Check out the sub-head to this piece in today's 'Telegraph': "October 13, 2008 will go down in history as the day the capitalist system in the UK finally admitted defeat." These are extraordinary days. In fact, the crisis is so fast-moving now, that it would be more accurate to say: 'These are extraordinary hours'.

This blogger's and then the Green Party's call for the banks to be nationalised - for no taxation without representation - have been dramatically vindicated. At last, we the taxpayers are going to get seats on the Boards of banks. At last, banks will be forced to lend to each other, and to their customers, especially small businesses, who are at the moment being either gouged or stonewalled by commercial banks. At last, the obscene profiteering of the banks will be reined in, including dividends and executive bonuses. <http://tinyurl.com/44mcx>

Thursday, 16th October

Bank nationalisation now! As shares drop further today, and (despite the bail-outs and buy-outs) the banks still won't lend to each other ('LIBOR remains 2% above central bank rates, an unprecedented 'spread') isn't it becoming clearer that, as I've said before on this blog, there is only one real answer: the commercial banks have to be NATIONALISED and/or remutualised (Roughly, my suggestion would be: permanent nationalisations of the 'big four' etc., and permanent remutualisations of the former building-societies).

This combined with a new strict and long-term regulatory regime to be introduced soon, might actually do the trick (of preventing a vast financial and economic meltdown). Banks need to be forced to lend, for the public good. There should be more inter-bank lending; more lending to small businesses etc.; and we need to fund a 'Green New Deal' to 'pump-prime' to escape a depression while saving rather than trashing our ecosystems. <http://tinyurl.com/3wcc5l>

Community Activities

Just a few places where Rupert has been out and about this month!



Canvassing in mid-Beds.



Submitting the petition to save Fritton Woods, along with Tony Wright MP



Welcoming mid-Beds Independent Cllr Ken Lynch to the Green Party!



Protesting against the privatisation of Hinchingsbrooke Hospital, Huntingdon.



Dinner with the FSB and Euro Election candidates from other parties.



Spreading the Green message at the 'Pink Picnic' in Cambridgeshire.

October Diary Highlights:

21 st Sept	Norwich	Speaker, 'Peace One Day'
3 rd Oct	Norwich	Presented Fritton Wood petition.
4 th Oct (am)	Hunts	Speaker, save hospital from privatisation rally.
4 th Oct (pm)	Beds	Leafleting with local Greens.
7 th Oct	Easton College	Spoke to 'Environmental Issues' class.
7 th Oct	Cambridge Uni	Fresher's Fair.
8 th Oct	Cambridge	Euro manifesto discussion with party members.
8 th Oct	FSB Dinner	See photo above!
9 th Oct	Future Radio	Discussed Al Gore's 'An Inconvenient Truth' in two-hour lunchtime music programme.
10 th Oct	Norwich	Green Action Saturday
16 th Oct	Titchwell RSPB	Discussed threat of rising sea levels
16 th Oct	UEA	'Green Politics and Green Philosophy' lecture.
18 th Oct	Norwich	Eastern Region Green Party meeting.
21 st Oct	Norwich	Full Council meeting.
25 th Oct	Beds	'Euro-Saturday' mass canvass.
30 th Oct	Norwich	Full Council meeting.

Green Links:

- **Social Networking**
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Rupert-Read/9128762052>
http://www.myspace.com/ruPERT_read
- **Our new experiment in green blogging, 'Green Home'! Check it out:**
<http://greenpartyblogs.org.uk/>

Feedback/Contact Details:

All of your feedback is hugely welcome so please feel free to contact me to comment about the newsletter and/or any of my other campaign work.

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Thanks!



<http://rupertsread.blogspot.com/>

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[[Note: this newsletter is put out in Rupert Read's name and does not necessarily represent the opinion of Eastern Region Green Party.]]