

# **Green Party Seniors Newsletter**

September 2021

# **Green Party Executive Results**

Publications: Julia Lagoutte (re-elected) Local Party Support: Rosie Rawle Policy: Vix Lowthion (re-elected) Internal Comms: Zoe Hatch

Finance: Jon Nott (re-elected) Equality & Diversity: Rashid Nix & Dzaier Neil (RN re-elected)

# **Extraordinary General Meeting**

At a well-attended EGM an amended Constitution was overwhelmingly agreed. **Nicola Watson** was elected as Acting Co-Chair alongside **Freda Davis**. **Alex Geddis** was formally co-opted onto the Committee and other volunteers offered to contribute to the Committee's work.

# National Conference – October 22-24 Birmingham

We will have a stall. Nicola and Ceri Galloway are working with Erwin to make sure our stall is inviting and presents Green Seniors as people with a lot to offer the Green Party. If you are going to Conference, do come and see us and pick up a badge.

We have booked a room for a Green Seniors meeting at Conference on **Friday at 3.15 pm**. We have ideas for topics, and plan to have time for socialising as well, but if there is a something you think we should be discussing, please let us know.

There is more about conference here: <a href="https://www.greenparty.org.uk/conference/">https://www.greenparty.org.uk/conference/</a> Booking for Conference is already open. Workshops will take place online in the week leading up to the 3-day physical Conference at the Eastside Rooms, 2 Woodcock Street, Birmingham B7 4BL: <a href="https://eastsiderooms.com/">https://eastsiderooms.com/</a>

#### **GPEx, Political Committee and Equality and Diversity Committee**

Committee members have attended on your behalf meetings of the above committees. Short reports will be in the minutes of the 8 September General Meeting. Additionally, we have been asked to take part in a consultation being run by the Party Structure Working Group and the Accessibility Panel. We hope that these initiatives will result in improved accessibility for all our Members' Groups.

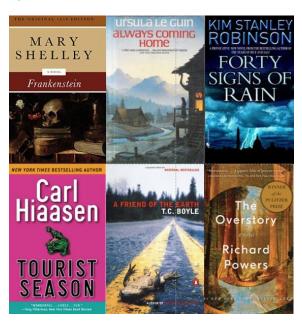
#### 1 October - UN International Day of Older Persons

The theme of this year's observance day to mark the contribution from older people to society is "digital equity" (<a href="https://www.un.org/development/desa/ageing/2021-unidop-digital-equity-for-all-ages.html">https://www.un.org/development/desa/ageing/2021-unidop-digital-equity-for-all-ages.html</a>). There will be events in various localities and they might provide an opportunity to raise the Green perspective on not just the chosen theme but the position of senior citizens today. There is growing activism in that age group. For example, nearly 25% of those arrested on Extinction Rebellion protests have been over 55. It challenges the stereotype that people inevitably become more passive and less concerned about the state of the world as they get older.



Sandy Irvine, Newcastle GP, circulated his suggestions for some 'dystopian' reading on ecological themes (pictured below) via the Google Group Here, he suggests some reading matter of a more positive nature.

Though smaller in number than 'dystopian' works, there are some excellent novels that give a flavour of how we might achieve a more sustainable society. *Ecotopia* by Ernest Callenbach, 1975 (now available in an anniversary edition) tells the story of a journalist visiting a newly-independent state on the west coast of the USA. There is a prequel: *Ecotopia Emerging* (1981). An older novel with a greenish utopia is 'Island' by Aldous Huxley, 1962. Guy Dauncey's *Journey to the Future* (2015) is about Vancouver in 2032 when the city has become far more environmentally sustainable. Our protagonist explores many aspects of a very different society to the consumerist society of today. Unlike most 'utopian' visions of the future, Dauncey bases his vision on developments actually happening today or in the pipeline. Edward Abbey's *The Monkey Wrench Gang* (1975) is a fast-paced and darkly comedic tale of a group of eco-saboteurs. It led to real-life imitation and added a new word to the language —"ecotage" — as well as inspiring a new generation of activists. There is a sequel: *Hayduke Lives!* (1989)



#### Make contact

Green Party Seniors website <a href="https://seniors.greenparty.org.uk/">https://seniors.greenparty.org.uk/</a>
Twitter <a href="https://twitter.com/seniors uk">https://twitter.com/seniors uk</a>

Facebook https://www.facebook.com/GreenPartySeniors

Contact the Committee through the Google Group.