



Green Party Seniors Newsletter

July 2023

EXECUTIVE ELECTION SPECIAL

This newsletter gives information on the candidates standing for the Green Party National Executive (GPEx). The Policy Development Committee is also being elected - separate newsletter to follow.

The Executive is the national body of the Green Party which is responsible for running the Party - in matters of finance, managing staff, external and internal communications, etc. The following Co-ordinator posts are being contested and voting will take place in August.

Co-ordinator Post	Candidate(s)
Finance	Julian Cusack
Equality & Diversity	Kefentse Dennis Melissa Poulton Ria Patel & Kelsey Trevett
Internal Communications	Helen Geake Laura Eccott & Alistair Binnie Lubbock
Publications	Edward Milford Seb Cousins & Cade Hatton
Local Party Support	Rosie Rawle
Policy Development	Anne Gayfer Dylan Lewis-Creser & Tom Atkins

For more information on the roles and responsibilities of Executive members, and the skills and knowledge required to carry out the roles effectively, go to the members' website - Internal Elections 2023. <https://members.greenparty.org.uk/taxonomy/term/90>

Finance Co-ordinator - One candidate

John Cusack



I joined the Green Party in 2019 having concluded that it was the only party with the values and policies to tackle the multiple crises of the 21st Century. This year, I acted as a campaign manager for 6 target Wards in the District Council elections in which overall we increased our representation on East Suffolk Council from 5 to 16. I also take a keen interest in policy and am a member of the Climate Emergency Policy Working Group.

I was previously active in the Labour Party and was the leader of the opposition Labour Group on Suffolk County Council in the 1980s and the Treasurer of my local Constituency Party.

I am a Chartered Accountant and have worked as an auditor, financial accountant and Chief Financial Officer. More recently I have held strategic financial management roles in the global insurance sector. As well as finance related jobs in my business career I have held many unpaid roles as the Treasurer of Charities and other not for profit organisations. This background gives me a track record of identifying and managing financial risks which I think is essential to this role. I am also well able to provide support, if needed, to our volunteer branch and regional treasurers.

The Green Party is poorly funded by comparison with other major parties and still manages to punch above its weight. As finance co-ordinator, I believe I could help ensure that we have the tight financial discipline and good governance that are crucial to ensuring that this remains the case.

I support the current focus of the party on preparations to fight our target seats in the General Election. My day-to-day work in the Green Party as Chair of the Suffolk Coastal branch brings me into contact with many members and supporters who understand that our priority is to persuade voters to consider voting Green often for the first time in their life. As a member of GPEX I would try to ensure that we continue to focus above all on growing our electoral success and political impact. There is no time to waste. Julian Cusack -

Suffolk Coastal Green Party

Equality and Diversity - 3 candidates

Kefentse Dennis

If we want to be a professional, electable, and widereaching political party, then all members need to be represented and to feel heard. I want us all to communicate effectively with one another, but due to our ever expanding diversity, this means that the understating of each other can differ.

I want everyone to be heard correctly, and checking for understanding to become a basic procedure of communication.

I am talking here of all protected characteristics (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation) within the party will be heard and understood.

I have been a Green Party member for 8 years and active within the Birmingham Green Party. I'm the Chair of the Deyika Fund Board and current LGBTQ Officer in Greens of Colour and the former chair of Greens of Colour. I was on GPEX for 2 years as Trade Union Liaison Officer.

My main aim is to bring a better balanced and more harmonious approach to how equality and diversity is handled within the party, Reference the Diverse Matters report here, the EEDI Action Plan, and the appointment of an EEDI manager. Say how welcomed that you were disappointed at the focus on some sets of protected characteristics over others. I will bring accountability, transparency, and a good range of governance in my aim to deliver 2 actions during my term:

- Advocating for an Independent Triage System for Complaints and Mediation
- Better Demographic Monitoring

I will work both with GPRC and GPEX to introduce an independent triage system when dealing with complaints because for too long we have seen a weaponisation of the complaint system. I believe that an independent system will remove any untrustworthiness and bring more trust to a delicate system.

I also believe that there is a major imbalance about which protected characteristics are being monitored within the party. There needs to be a holistic approach towards monitoring so each liberation group can work with each individual member for their own purposes. I believe in an opt-out system for when new members join the party and describe their characteristics.

For too long we've seen groups pitting against each other and also groups completely ignored outright. This can no longer be the case and I will do my utmost to make sure that all voices are heard equally.

My work experience, and being a member of The Green Party has led me to gain essential skills including organisational skills, resilience, communication, and resourcefulness for this role.

I know that using the skills and experiences will enhance my ability to be a member of the executive committee and Equality and Diversity Coordinator. I would bring a unique blend of natural talent as well as an ability to absorb and seek new information to transform the role.



Melissa Poulton

My name is Melissa Poulton and I am a proud lesbian. I have been a member of the Green Party since 2020 and have been the Co-Secretary of the LGBTIQ+ Greens. I am a member of the Disability group, LGBTIQ+ Greens, Green Party Women and the Secretary of the Gypsy Roma Traveller Policy Working Group. I challenge myself to be the best woman I can be. I am also a target candidate for the 2024 local elections in Worcester and a parliamentary candidate in the next General Election.



I am looking at standing for the role of Equality and Diversity Coordinator on GPeX. I have a great understanding of Equality and Diversity along with equity and inclusion. EEDI is important to any organisation whether it be political or non-political. Having a vast array of knowledge that I can bring into my role. I have the experience to coach and lead a group of people to fulfil the needs of the committee. I believe that with me coordinating the E+D committee, the party will see better processes to help many internal and external stakeholders.

In my work life, I am a wellbeing and inclusion champion, LGBTQ+ focus group champion and a mental health champion. The skills that I have learnt through my day to day work, will help me deliver in a role that helps, supports and guides many people within the Green Party.

Ria Patel & Kelsey Trevett (job share)

Kelsey's Twitter: <https://twitter.com/CouldBeKel>

Ria's Twitter: https://twitter.com/Ria_Patel



The crises we face as a society, from the cost of living crisis, to the climate emergency, demonstrate the interlocking and reinforcing nature of the causes of social and environmental injustice. We're proud that the Green Party not only recognises this, but actively champions an approach which centres traditionally marginalised communities in the fight for a fairer, Greener country. If elected, we will use this position to further that commitment, uplifting the voices of all liberation and special interest groups, fostering strong collaborative working, and ensuring that our commitment to intrinsically linked social and climate justice runs deeper than rhetoric.

We want to see equalities and social justice considered as a part of all decisions, more training for our internal and external representatives, and would regularly meet with committees of all special interest groups to ensure their aims are heard at a national level.

Finally, we want to champion the compilation of liberation and special interest group specific manifestos ahead of the upcoming general election.

Kelsey has spent a year as the Equality & Diversity officer for the Young Greens, and two years as its Co-Chair. Ria has previously been the Co-Chair of LGBTIQ+ Greens for two years, and is currently the Green Party's Equalities & Diversity spokesperson, Liberation Officer for LGBTIQ+ Greens, a board member of the Deyika Fund, as well as a Councillor for Fairfield, Croydon. We feel that our skills and experience combined will enable us to undertake this role effectively, and to produce tangible outcomes in the progress of the Green Party towards meaningful diversity and inclusivity.

Internal Communications - 2 candidates

Helen Geake

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/HelenGeake>

My priority for GPEX is simple – to get more Greens elected.

I have been a Green Party member for ten years, standing for Parliament in Bury St Edmunds three times. In 2019 I achieved the best Green result nationally in a Tory held constituency, with nearly 16% of the vote. I've also just finished a four-year stint on Mid Suffolk District Council, where we have recently won an unprecedented majority – the first Green majority council in the northern hemisphere.



I now want to help share the learning from these experiences. Every election provides fresh opportunities to recruit and enthuse, to build our contacts and our confidence, and turn our members into activists. Internal comms are crucial to this process; they keep our members informed, active and optimistic, working to increase the party's councillors and MPs.

If I'm elected as Internal Comms Co-ordinator, I will work with our brilliant communications staff to:

- Seize the moment when new members join. New members should have their skills and aims effectively matched with their local party's needs on the ground.
- Explain the Party's constitution and decision-making structure clearly, and help to revise it if necessary. The climate crisis is an urgent emergency, and time should not be wasted on finding out who is responsible for what.
- Co-ordinate top-down and bottom-up communications better. Members need to know what's going on in local parties, committees and at conference, and must be able to contribute more easily and effectively. Members are valuable, and should feel valued.

All of this keeps the main aim in sight: to take every opportunity to get more Greens elected.

Outside politics, I earn my living as an archaeologist. I've spent the last 25 years working in community archaeology, recording finds made by members of the public, especially metal detectorists. I also work in television archaeology, mainly for Time Team, originally on Channel 4 but recently re-booted as a YouTube channel.

I have been a trustee of many heritage charities, so I understand the responsibility and importance of good and effective governance. I am currently a trustee of the Sutton Hoo Ship's Company, a major project (with paid staff and many volunteers) to rebuild, row and sail one of the largest early-medieval ships in Europe. I also enjoy singing tenor in a local choir.

Laura Eccott & Alastair Binnie-Lubcock (job share)

<https://twitter.com/EccottLaura>

<https://twitter.com/alastairis>

<https://www.instagram.com/laurajaneeccott/>

We will work to implement and enhance the internal communications strategy, improving communications between and within all parts of the party. This includes GPEX, the staff team, the regional teams and crucially the membership. We will take our shared responsibility to address all challenges that arise seriously, so the party can thrive and work as a unified democratic force with clear, concise and effective messaging.



We will proactively communicate the work of GPEX and work with the Electoral Returning Officer to promote engagement with internal party democracy, as well as contributing to Development and Campaigns Committees.

We bring a combined breadth of experience, skills, passions (we both love trees, sci-fi and cats) and perspectives that we are confident will help support the work of the staff team and bring members closer to the heart of our increasingly successful party.

We are also keen to make sure the party continues to work hard to be as inclusive and inspiring as possible as it grows and gets more Greens elected who will enact vital policies to protect and nurture all inhabitants of our one planet.

Laura Eccott Chichester and Arun Green Party

As a GPEW (Green Party of England and Wales) member, Laura has been a Press Officer and Coordinator for her local party. She has graduated Campaign School and stood on the South East Regional Committee. Laura currently attends policy working groups, engages with external lobbying groups and organisations (such as Elect Her), volunteers as a UN women U.K. delegate, and is on the Green Party Women's Committee. Laura is proficient with Action Network and Green Spaces, and holds an Accessibility 101 accreditation from Microsoft.

In her home life, Laura is raising a disabled daughter as a lone parent, having previously worked in the NHS as a Mental Health Nurse and studied for a chemistry degree.

As a nurse, Laura learnt to engage in effective teamwork, evidence the rationale for decisions, and implement duty of care - this has supported the skills needed to effectively communicate and engage in political spaces alongside external campaigning.

Alastair Binnie-Lubbock Hackney Green Party

Alastair has a unique insight into the GPEW's internal communications, developed not only during two years working in the events and fundraising team as a member of staff and trade unionist, but equally as an active local party member and elected councillor in the London borough of Hackney, passing motions in support of fair votes, striking workers, the Climate and Ecology Bill and trans rights.

Alastair has recently worked as Head of Content for a global animal charity and now, as well as being a hard-working local councillor, is a digital campaigner for an organisation that promotes the use of citizens' assemblies within our democracy.

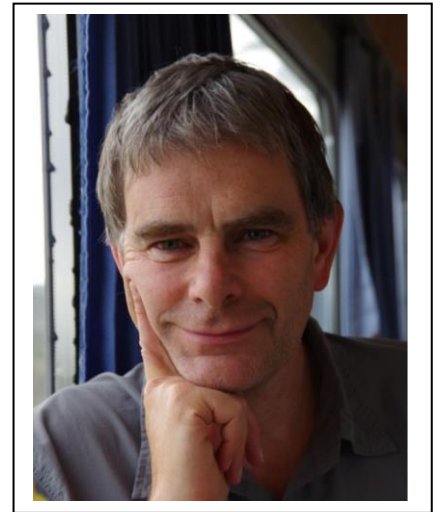
Alastair has created fundraising appeals, social media campaigns, run events and set up national and local phone banks. He knows the importance of engaging members in the party's strategy, so they can understand how best to support and participate in its success at all levels

Publications - 2 candidates

Edward Milford

I am standing for the post of Publications Coordinator on GPEX. I have over 40 years of experience in publishing and have served on many company and charity boards as a nonexecutive director. I served on GPEX for four years from 2009-2013 and have campaigned widely for the Green Party both in London and in rural areas.

The next two years will see a General Election that will be crucial in shaping the future of the Green Party. Winning Parliamentary seats through well-run campaigns in different parts of the country will be vital to establish ourselves as a truly important national force. This will need a committed, coordinated effort by all parts of the Party.



Publications needs to be part of this effort, to promote and amplify the key messages for electoral success. My 4 decades of experience in professional and academic publishing, mainly in smaller businesses, spanned a full range of formats (magazines, books, newsletters and datasets; all both print and digital). I set up and ran a company specialising in international environmental and sustainability issues for over 20 years, growing to a staff of more than 30 by the time it was sold.

I now work part-time as a non-executive director for several small publishers, as a volunteer with local environmental campaign groups and have been a Trustee for various different charities. I've seen many of the issues that come up running organisations, and have plenty of experience tackling them as part of a committed and diverse group of people.

I joined the Green Party over 20 years ago, keen to put theoretical knowledge into local practice. Since then, I've realised that activism is an important part of my personal response to the daunting scale of the social and environmental challenges that we face.

I have taken on numerous local roles during my time in the Party, first in London and more recently in Herefordshire where I am currently Chair of the local party. I served on GPEX for four years between 2009 and 2013. I have always involved myself heavily in local election campaigns; I saw the first Green Councillors elected in Camden, and ran the General Election campaign for Natalie Bennett in Holborn and St Pancras in 2015. Since moving to Herefordshire we have had two, full-slate elections and grown the

group of Green Councillors from two to nine. I have also helped out locally as part of winning teams in Tewkesbury, Newport and Monmouthshire.

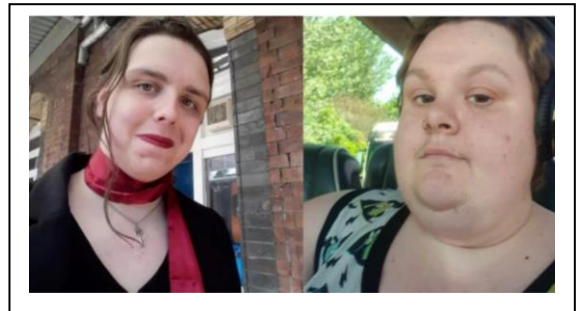
My experience of living and campaigning in one of the more rural parts of England and Wales for the last eight years after fifteen years of doing the same in London would bring a useful perspective to GPEX. While most of the issues are the same, the style, messaging and logistics of the campaigns are very different. With several of our target constituencies in rural areas (including North Herefordshire) understanding these differences will be particularly important.

Mina Cousins & Cade Hatton (job share)

Mina's Twitter: <https://twitter.com/SebCousins>

Cade's Twitter: <https://twitter.com/xkailajayx>

Mina and Cade are both extremely passionate members of the Green Party of England and Wales, hoping to further the potential and reach of Green World and all our publications.



With over a decade in the party, Cade has a huge amount of experience dealing with the complex issues within the party, and a Creative Writing degree to help back up the editorial board of Green World. They have a real passion for inclusive work and hope to work alongside the rest of GPEX, especially the E&D coordinator, to platform our marginalised members and ensure that the most vital voices are heard. They have experience working in a team with varied, diverse opinions, working within our own Conferences Committee to help bring our events to Green Party members.

Mina has a great deal of experience in social media, having run the LGBTIQ+ Greens social media accounts and the articles section on the LGBTIQ+ website for nearly two years. Mina has various committee experience: having served on the Young Greens Exec and its Democracy and Accountability Committee, as well as being Co-Chair of LGBTIQ+ Greens last year, & now its External Communications and Press Officer; having experience of leading on campaigns and general committee work while also building consensus within committee to get actions taken. At the helm of one of the largest GPEW social media accounts, Mina has managed a team of volunteers to make sure our content is seen, fostered relationships with staff members, & directed a number of complex projects to their completion. This includes the LGBTIQ+ Greens coverage of two years of LGBT+ Pride Months, reaching out to other liberation groups & individuals within the party to produce content, working with our campaigns officer to publicise our campaigns & interviews. With a real passion for communication & a proven record of working with and leading committees, Mina hopes to work alongside the other Communications officers to ensure the party's voice is clear & passionate about the impact of climate change on the most vulnerable & ensuring that this is communicated through publications most effectively.

Together, we believe we'll make an excellent addition to both GPEX & the Green World Editorial Board. We both have a strong sense of both the current policies held by the party, experience of working with & leading committees, & an understanding of the way interim policy works & should be publicised. With years of experience between us;

centred around communication, we know we can revitalise Green World & the rest of our publications as we head into the inevitable upcoming elections next year; set to be our biggest set of elections ever.

For too long, Labour's unfairly dominated the left wing; even as they creep steadily rightward. A great deal of this is due to their PR- we hope to beat them at their own game; taking our hard won place as the progressive alternative to the Tories. We have so many incredible members, we hope [6 words cut].

Local Party Support - 1 candidate

Rosie Rawle

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GreenRosieRawle>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/rosierawle>

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/rosie_rawle/

Threads: https://www.threads.net/@rosie_rawle

I have been Local Party Support Coordinator for two years, have served on GPEX for five years and am a City Councillor in Oxford. Over that time, I have worked with colleagues on a number of projects and initiatives that have driven the Green Party forward.



Now I'm seeking re-election because I want to continue that work and make sure our party can take advantage of the crucial political moment we find ourselves in - a moment where the climate emergency becomes more pressing by the day, where the government is engaged in economic and social vandalism and where no other political party is offering the transformative change our country and our planet desperately needs.

In my time on GPEX, the Green Party has achieved unprecedented success. We now have over 750 Councillors, are in administration in more local authorities than ever before and have a higher media profile than we've had at any point in our history. I'm proud to have played a role in this, particularly through my work feeding into the party's overall political strategy, local election strategy, and - most recently - serving on the General Election Steering Group.

I have long believed though that as a party born out of radical social movements, our success is built not only on the tireless work of the volunteers who knock on doors and deliver leaflets, but also on the social base we can build within society. That's why I've also pushed to ensure that movement building is a key plank of our political strategy.

Alongside this, I have been a part of some of the key decisions that have driven the party forward. For the last two years, I have served as Deputy Chair of GPEX, working to ensure decisions within the executive are strategic, open and democratic. I also have spent three years on the party's Development Committee, overseeing the party's ambitious fundraising targets and supporting the party to maximise its income generation opportunities, so we can plough more money back into local parties and election campaigns, get more Greens elected and deliver the change we want to see.

The next two years will be the most important two years the Green Party has ever had. We have a unique opportunity to take the next major leap forwards - electing our second and third MPs to parliament, becoming a permanent fixture in local councils and gearing up to break through in the 2026 Senedd elections. All of this will have a seismic impact on politics across England and Wales.

But to make it happen, we need to make the right decisions now. We need to ensure that local parties have sustainable finances, effectively trained volunteers and well supported candidates and Councillors. We need to have a robust strategy for delivering it nationally. And we need to ensure our brilliant staff team have the political leadership that enables them to thrive and deliver.

That's why I'm standing for re-election. [11 words cut]

Policy Development - 2 candidates

Anne Gayfer



I am putting my name forward for the role of Policy Development Coordinator because whilst Vix has been in the role, I have been supporting her via my role as GPRC Friend (all GPRC members are critical Friends and support for other committees etc in the Party). I have therefore learned a lot about how the Policy Development Committee works. I have supported Vix in drawing up standing orders for the Committee and I have supported her in getting the role up and running again after a gap during which no-one was in post.

In GPRC, I have convened the group that manages policy approval between conferences.

I am also the convenor of the Land Use policy working group, and recently guided a Voting Paper through conference, so I have practical experience of policy development.

I am well organised and I understand the structure of the Party (having served it in various roles at local, regional and national levels) and the ways in which they link together in the policy context.

I enjoy working in a group and I am confident that I could inspire the Committee to continue the job of embedding this vital role in the Party.

Dylan Lewis-Creser & Tom Atkins

Dylan's Twitter: <https://twitter.com/CreserDylanGrn>

Tom's Twitter: https://twitter.com/Thomas_Atkin_1

As Greens, we need to own how we do politics differently. We are a party that provides a real alternative to the status quo of British politics, that gives its members the ultimate say over how our policy is developed and what vision we bring to this country. The post of Policy Development Coordinator is vital to guiding this process, providing a link from our Policy Working Groups to the Executive.



As individuals, both Dylan and Tom bring experience of working in the Green Party to affect change. Dylan is the Co-Chair of the LGBTIQ+ Greens and the Equality & Diversity Officer for the Young Greens, experience that has given them a great deal of understanding and knowledge of how to navigate the internal structures of our party, creating an environment that is accepting of diversity in our membership and can progress our progressive and green agenda.

Tom has experience as a trustee of a charity, Sheffield Young Carers, which provides them with first-hand experience of how current policy impacts some of the most vulnerable in society, and what we need to do to fix it, and that is Green Party policy. They are also the International Officer for the LGBTIQ+ Greens and the Elections Coordinator for the Sheffield Green Party, one of our largest with 14 councillors.

This experience in delivering change, being experienced electioneers, speaking with people in the North and Midlands and understanding that we need to diversify our policy process, is why we are standing. The Green Party needs to be more diverse, having more people of colour, disabled people, working class people and other groups involved in all levels of the party, including policy development. To truly create inclusive policy, we need the groups who will be affected by it to co-create it, and we want to help facilitate that.

We are not afraid to speak truth to power, to ensure that injustice is not tolerated and that this party continues on its path to even greater success. We want to work collaboratively with other GPEx members to help ensure the good governance of our party, to ensure we are financially stable and support our great work in the leadup to a General Election and more local elections.

People look to the Green Party because we offer something different, a vision that is popular and addresses the multiple crises in our world, with the climate and ecological emergency being only one. We would be proud to continue guiding and supporting our Policy Working Groups in developing policy in an ever-changing world, and providing that link between our policy makers and those in power.

If you like what you've read, please give your 1st preference vote to Dylan Lewis-Creser and Tom Atkin for Policy Development Coordinator.

If you have any questions you are welcome to contact the candidates direct - or we can forward questions on your behalf.

Green Party Women and LGBTIQ+ Greens are holding hustings - and possibly other groups as well. If you belong to either of these groups, look out for emails with the Zoom details.

Internal democracy is very important and we hope that this information will help you when you vote.

For more information on the roles and responsibilities of Executive members, and the skills and knowledge required to carry out the roles effectively, go to the members' website - Internal Elections 2023. <https://members.greenparty.org.uk/taxonomy/term/90>

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Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/GreenPartySeniors
Google group	https://groups.google.com/u/0/g/green-seniors
email	greenseniors@greenparty.org.uk