



# Green Party *Christchurch*

**Green Party** Membership is up  
**20,000** *this month, to over* **60,000!**

We have overtaken both the *Lib Dems* and *UKIP* to become  
**the third largest UK-wide party**

*Join the*

**#GreenSurge**

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

## **Christchurch Green Party Meeting**

Supporters are welcome at a meeting on Saturday morning, **7th Feb 2015**, which will include an introduction for new attendees; discussion and decisions regarding taking things forward locally, including filling certain roles; and there will also be a hustings (question and answer session) with the nominated candidate for the Christchurch constituency.

The meeting will take place at 10:30am in Room 4 at Portfield Community Hall, Portfield Road, Christchurch, BH23 2AQ. There is limited parking on site and street parking outside.

We will also be having a collection for Christchurch Food Bank, so please bring a tin (or more) if you can.

The food bank regularly needs the following: Cereal, tinned soup, pasta sauces, fruit juice (carton), tinned tomatoes, pasta, rice, rice/sponge pudding, tinned veg, milk (UHT or powdered), tea bags, coffee, instant mash, tinned potatoes, tinned meat/fish, tinned fruit, sugar, biscuits or snack bars. Thank you!

**[www.southeastdorset.greenparty.org.uk](http://www.southeastdorset.greenparty.org.uk)**

# ALL ABOARD FOR A PUBLIC RAILWAY?

Are rail fares too costly? Over this Parliament average wages are expected to have risen by 6.9%<sup>1</sup> while regulated fares have increased by more than 20%<sup>1</sup>. At a conservative estimate, around £1.2bn<sup>2</sup> is lost each year as a result of fragmentation and privatisation – this is money which could, and should, be reinvested to improve our services and reduce fares.

Yet just last month, the Government announced plans to re-privatise the East Coast Mainline - a dreadful deal for passengers and taxpayers. In the five years it's been run by the public sector, East Coast returned nearly £1bn to the taxpayer, as well as increasing passenger numbers, introducing a new timetable, improving punctuality and establishing industry leading approaches to waste recycling and reducing carbon emissions. The decision to re-privatise was clearly not made in the public interest.

It is time to change track? Re-nationalising the railways has been Green Party policy since they were privatised and has public backing too, with 60% in favour, 20% against in polls<sup>3</sup>. On 9th January, Green MP Caroline Lucas's Railway Bill had its second reading in Parliament. The Bill will require the Secretary of State for Transport to assume control of rail passenger franchises as they expire. More at [www.carolinelucas.com](http://www.carolinelucas.com).

1 [http://www.bettertransport.org.uk/sites/default/files/pdfs/CfBT\\_Jan2015\\_Rail\\_fares\\_briefing\\_1.pdf](http://www.bettertransport.org.uk/sites/default/files/pdfs/CfBT_Jan2015_Rail_fares_briefing_1.pdf)

2 [http://www.transportforqualityoflife.com/u/files/120630\\_Rebuilding\\_Rail\\_Final\\_Report\\_print\\_version.pdf](http://www.transportforqualityoflife.com/u/files/120630_Rebuilding_Rail_Final_Report_print_version.pdf)

3 <https://yougov.co.uk/news/2014/05/11/why-do-people-support-rail-nationalisation/>

## Green MEP for the South West

In May last year local voters helped elect Molly Scott Cato as the first Green MEP for the South West. Molly holds the finance brief in the European Green Group and has been leading the campaign against TTIP, the secretive EU-US trade negotiations which would be good for big business, but not so good for us. You can find out more about Molly's wonderful work on our behalf at [www.mollymep.org.uk](http://www.mollymep.org.uk) and sign up for her regular email updates.

## A Green MEP elected in the South West; Green Party polling ahead of the Lib Dems in national polls; and a Green MP is MP of the Year for 2014.

The political landscape in Britain is changing. As the old tribal loyalties to the Conservative and Labour parties continue to break down, increasing numbers of voters are finding out that the Green Party is a close match for them in terms of values - and the policies and behaviour that flow from those values.

You may already know that to be the case for you. If not, have a look at our core values, mini-manifesto or in-depth policies at [www.greenparty.org.uk](http://www.greenparty.org.uk) or use [www.voteforpolicies.org.uk](http://www.voteforpolicies.org.uk) to find the best matched party for you. Close to half a million people have used this blind test, and Green Party policies are the most popular, both locally and across the country.

[www.voteforpolicies.org.uk](http://www.voteforpolicies.org.uk)



Please pass on or recycle

## More Greens for Parliament?

Would you like to have a Green parliamentary candidate to vote for in the general election on 7th May? For the Green Party to continue its rapid growth it is crucial that people have Green Party candidates to vote for at elections and that the Green Party's distinctive voice and policies be heard.

This is where we need your help. It costs money to field candidates in the general election. We have set up a crowdfunding page to receive contributions towards these costs. We invite you to join the crowd funding our campaign in Christchurch. Donate by the 5th February to secure your Green candidate.

*Please donate, share, join and volunteer if you can.*

[www.crowdfunder.co.uk/christchurch](http://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/christchurch)

Are there local issues of concern to you? Please let us know.

To get involved contact Shona Dunn (12 Campbell Road CHRISTCHURCH BH23 7JY) on 07712 602138, e-mail [shonadunn@btinternet.com](mailto:shonadunn@btinternet.com), or visit:

[www.southeastdorset.greenparty.org.uk](http://www.southeastdorset.greenparty.org.uk)  
[www.greenparty.org.uk](http://www.greenparty.org.uk)

*You can now register to vote online:*

[www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote)



**Green Party**  
for the common good