



East Devon Green Party



East Devon Green resurgence



Top: Sharon Howe (left) and Sharon Pavey demonstrating against cuts and possible closure of Honiton maternity unit.

Middle: From left: Michele Seymour, Sharon Howe, Sharon Pavey and Ana Pulteney show that the Greens mean business on a stall in Sidmouth.

Bottom: Sharon Pavey (right) with Isaac Price-Sosner of Exeter Green Party and Green Devon County Councillor Paula Black.



Support for the Greens is growing steadily in the South West with Paula Black becoming the first Green to be elected to the Devon County Council in May 2009. In January 2010 nineteen people turned up for the East Devon Green Party's inaugural meeting in Sidmouth, highlighting the need for stronger Green representation in this area. The East Devon Green Party celebrated their one year anniversary in January 2011.

The Party was very lucky to attract Sharon Pavey to stand as Green Party candidate for the general election in May 2010. She is a natural leader with a huge amount of drive and commitment.

In those few short months, meetings were organised or stalls were held in all the main towns in the East Devon constituency – Sidmouth, Ottery, Exmouth and Budleigh – where a point was made of listening to local people's concerns. One result of this was to send Green Party activists to wield placards and collect signatures against the maternity cuts at Honiton Hospital and another was to support a local farmer in his application for a wind turbine.

Fundraising for the election campaign included a successful curry night in Sidmouth with generous donations from supporters and wellwishers. Election literature was produced and distributed (see election postcard on the left) in the main East Devon towns by enthusiastic supporters. Meanwhile, Sharon was much in demand answering correspondence and taking part in election hustings in Sidmouth and Exmouth. As indeed was Cathy Connor, whose last-minute candidacy for the

young greens



Hi, I'm Oscar and I am the Young Greens Coordinator for the East Devon Green Party.

I joined the Green Party as I wanted to become more involved in local politics, and issues which will affect my future. Because several matters like global warming and problems in the jobs market will influence my generation in just a few years, I would like to start a Young Greens group here in East Devon. This will be for anyone under the age of 30 who wants to become more involved, and, in the long run, create a better future here in East Devon.

If you would like to join or find out more, please email me today!
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Honiton & Tiverton constituency made it possible to achieve the cherished goal of a full slate of Green candidates across all 12 Devon constituencies!

With all this electioneering experience under her belt, Sharon is now planning to stand for East Devon District Council in May 2011.

Sharon Howe EDGP



How did you find the experience of standing in a General Election & would you do it again?

I only joined the Green Party in autumn 2008 so I really jumped in feet first when I was asked to be the Green candidate for East Devon in January 2009. I was incredibly proud to be able to give local people the Green option on their ballot paper. It was a steep learning curve but yes, I would do it again because I think we should all stand up for what we believe in.

Did you enjoy the hustings, debating with the Tory MP Hugo Swire?

I was very nervous before my first hustings in Sidmouth but found that reading the Green manifesto inside out and preparing notes really helped. Obviously Hugo Swire knows East Devon well and is a smooth talker but I felt I put across the Green policies well. I was more concerned about the UKIP candidate as I had not really come across these people before and they don't seem to believe that climate change is actually happening, which is incredibly worrying!

INTERVIEW

Sharon Pavey

Green Party General Election candidate for East Devon 2010

Left: Sharon with son Alexander aged four

Are you pleased that you and Cathy Connor (who stood for Tiverton & Honiton) made up a full-slate for Devon?

Yes, Cathy coming in at the last minute meant every person in Devon had the opportunity to vote Green. All 12 Devon constituencies had a Green candidate and we were featured in the local papers which just helps to spread the Green word and attract more members.



Cathy Connor (left) and Sharon Pavey

Will you be standing for the local elections in May 2011?

I am planning on standing in Honiton and supporting other Green Party members standing in their local areas. Greens bring fresh ideas and solutions to councils, and can really make the changes we all need to build a better, fairer future. I can't wait to shake things up in East Devon in May 2011.



EDGP activist Henry Gent

Say YES to a new way of voting for your Member of Parliament in 2011

Next May there will be a referendum, to end the 'first-past-the-post' system which means many constituencies are 'safe' seats for either of the two main parties. Not surprisingly, many people don't vote, and MPs are often elected with the support of less than 25% of the electorate.

The Green Party wants to change the voting system to proportional representation (PR), where the number of MPs in Parliament will be proportional to the number of votes cast for that Party in the country as a whole. Unfortunately, this government will not give us that option in the referendum but they are offering an improvement on the current system, called the 'Alternative Vote' (AV).

The Green Party believes we should support AV, and campaign for a 'Yes' vote in the referendum in May 2011 with the ultimate goal of further reform, leading to full PR in the future.

Henry Gent , EDGP

GOV GREEN

Ave you thought of joinin da cool scene-
Supportin Caroline, de queen green?
Could make big changes cross de nasion,
Cause mightee good vibrasion.

Cos de uva colours dey is all past it,
Red, blue, orange ... brown ... dey jus no fit.
Dey no longa think to da future
Jus blab, no move forward, mi is sure.

We need good peaceful revolusion
To mend de world an give us solusion.
But wi ave ta work ard togevva
Face rough rides, get through stormee
wevva.

Is not easee all de problems ta solve,
Take energee an lots o resolve,
So for all de countries to survive
Le's get sustainable abits ta revive.

Wi ave ta look back an forward
Ta learn, gain sufficient reward.
Rememba skills of past generasions
Use less not more, no esitasions.

So ya know which colour is fa growin
Ealthy planet is what wi wan showin,
Sistas an bruvvas come along an join us
Wi is groovin on down in de green bus!

Ana Pulteney

contact us

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call Sharon on **07740973990**

For information about meetings and
events **http://southwest.greenparty.
org.uk/region/southwest/east-devon**

Green Party of England & Wales:
www.greenparty.org.uk