

EXETER & DEVON BRANCH OF THE CO-OPERATIVE PARTY
NEWSLETTER

Secretary: Saxon Spence
Tel: 01392 271785

Flat 6, Clifton Court, Clifton Hill, Exeter, EX1 2EL
e-mail: smspence@phonecoop-coop

Issue 5

August, 2012

Exeter & Devon Co-operative Party

7.45 pm, TUESDAY, 11th September
Exeter Labour Hall, 26B Clifton Hill, Exeter.

LINDA GILROY
South West representative
on the Co-operative Party NEC
on National Policy and Annual conference

7.00 – Branch meeting in committee room

National news

Party launches End Legal Loan Sharking campaign

The Co-operative Party is working with Stella Creasy, Labour Co-operative MP, and the Movement for Change on the Shark-stoppers campaign to end the menace of legal loan sharking in our communities. The campaign is calling for an end to high cost credit – pay day loans, high interest hire purchase and doorstep loans. The aim is total cost capping – setting a limit beyond which the total cost of any loan can go, including interest, administration fees and any late requirement or penalty fees.

This is a timely campaign with one in three payday loans being used to payoff a existing payday load, and the economic squeeze putting pressure on those earning low pay or subsisting on reducing benefits. The Party is asking local branches, councillors and individual members to raise awareness of this menace and promote credit unions as an affordable co-operative alternative – so we need to think about how we support this campaign.

New National Party Secretary

International development director, Karin Christiansen, has been appointed as the first female general Secretary of the Co-operative Party. She replaces Michael Stephenson who left in May and now works for Co-operative Group. She has worked for government and voluntary agencies, and been a research fellow with the Overseas Development Institute. She is currently working on the Fabian Society's programme for the next Labour government.

Local News: Housing - The branch is delighted that Exeter's Labour Council has adopted a co-operative housing approach to meeting the growing demand for new homes in the city.

Schools – There are an increasing number of schools in Devon going for Co-operative Trust status including all ten Devon special schools. They have formed the SENTient Trust, supported by co-operative Group – great news for a more strategic approach to meeting the needs of children requiring specialist help.

Membership - We value your membership but if you are not on direct debit or have paid already, we do need to have your subs for 2012. The local party pays £15 for each membership card issued so cannot afford to have unpaid subs.

Membership Subscriptions are now due

The annual fee is now £20 and for unwaged members £12. You can pay Paul Bull, Membership Secretary, Ted Duley, Treasurer, at our next meeting. or by post to Saxon Spence, Flat 6, Clifton Court, Clifton Hill, Exeter, EX1 2EL. Direct debit is the easiest way to renew your membership and there is a form on the Co-op Party website. The unwaged rate, however, is only payable locally.

Contact - Please let us have your e-mail if we do not have it, as this is the easiest way to communicate and saves postage.

The next branch meeting on Tuesday, 4th December will be on the Co-operative Agenda for Local Government with a focus on Co-operative Housing, and the manifesto for the county council elections.