

# Report

**Proposer:** Edinburgh Greens Branch Committee (decided on: 09/15/2020)

**Title:** Report: Branch Committee

## Report

### Annual Report 2020

Events over the past year have affected us all in many different and unexpected ways. None of us knew at the last AGM that another general election was imminent when we took up our positions! And, like communities across the world, we've been struggling to navigate our way through the health and economic crises caused by COVID-19. The committee has nevertheless worked hard over the past year running campaigns, holding events and training sessions and continuing to work constructively with our councillors, MSPs and the national party. We would like to extend our thanks to everyone who has been involved with the branch over the past year, particularly during such difficult times.

### **Branch events, meetings and trainings**

We've run a range of branch events and meetings over the course of the last 14 months. We have sought to improve the accessibility of these events by introducing welcome teams to help people feel comfortable and supported when joining us at events, and by introducing a budget set aside for accessibility. We also increased our fundraising activity at events, introducing raffle collections to fundraise for room hire costs and support the branch. From March - at the outset of the COVID pandemic - we successfully shifted to hosting our events exclusively online. We will continue hosting events this way for the foreseeable future.

Events have included:

- 24 • An evening in conversation with Magid Magid (while he was still an MEP!)  
25 in February 2020, hosted by the Edinburgh Young Greens. The event was  
26 attended by over 100 participants and you can watch the conversation with  
27 Magid [here](#).
  
- 28 • Panel discussions with: local youth climate strikers and our co-leaders  
29 Patrick and Lorna; Edinburgh Green councillors on the impact of  
30 coronavirus on their work; Councillor Gavin Corbett and SGP co-leader  
31 Lorna Slater about a Green Recovery for Edinburgh.
  
- 32 • A meet-and-greet 'green freshers fair' for new and existing members, where  
33 we all got to meet our elected reps and members of various party working  
34 groups and committees
  
- 35 • A number of training and strategy days, including: an event to re-energise  
36 our local green groups, providing skills to support fundraising and run  
37 events; events to encourage under-represented groups to get involved in  
38 green politics; and a participatory strategy day to set our main objective  
39 for the next three years
  
- 40 • Co-hosting the 'Green Yes' kick-off event at the start of 2020 with the  
41 national party. Our very own Julia Bandel was a key speaker alongside Ska  
42 Keller MEP.
  
- 43 • An online quiz social event MC'd by our lovely MSPs Alison and Andy,  
44 including a questionable rendition of The Wombles

45 Our AGM was postponed from June to September due to COVID.

## 46 47 **Elections**

48 Importantly throughout the year there has been focus on the 2021 Scottish  
49 Parliament election and 2022 Edinburgh City Council election. Despite this, we  
50 have still been kept busy facing a snap Westminster Election and several by-  
51 elections too:

52 Westminster General Election - December 2019

53 Work on the snap-election began as early as October, selecting candidates to  
54 stand in all constituencies covered by the Edinburgh branch. The branch agreed  
55 with the proposal to stand in all Edinburgh constituencies and Livingston, in  
56 addition to the Falkirk branch leading in the Falkirk East and Linlithgow  
57 constituency.

58 It was recognised that the campaign was not going to elect our first Scottish  
59 Green MP, however the main campaign aim was successfully focussed on engaging  
60 members across our target wards for future elections whilst fundraising all our  
61 election costs (c.£11,000).

62  
63 We were delighted to return the highest Green vote share in Scotland with Claire  
64 Miller in Edinburgh East and to have offered all voters across Edinburgh the  
65 opportunity to vote Green. Full results from the election are below:

- 66 • Edinburgh South – Kate Nevens, 2.7%
  
- 67 • Edinburgh East – Claire Miller, 4.3%
  
- 68 • Edinburgh North & Leith – Steve Burgess, 3.3%
  
- 69 • Edinburgh South West – Ben Parker, 2.4%
  
- 70 • Edinburgh West – Elaine Gunn, 1.9%
  
- 71 • Livingston – Cameron Glasgow, 2.6%

72 Thank you to everyone involved in the campaign.

73 Holyrood Election - May 2021

74 The planning for the Holyrood campaign started in summer 2019 with a lessons  
75 learned meeting looking back at the 2016 election. This was followed by

76 organising a hustings and the selection of Lothian regional list candidates,  
77 announced at the October 2019 conference in Inverness. The list is topped by  
78 Alison Johnstone, Andy Wightman and Lorna Slater. A full list of our candidates  
79 can be found [here](#).

80 The Lothian Regional Campaign Board has met monthly since January 2020, with  
81 discussions covering key topics including finance, fundraising and interface  
82 with the national campaign. The campaign launch took place online on 12th  
83 September 2020 with input from Alison, Andy and Lorna, as well as other  
84 speakers.

### 85 Council Election - May 2020

86 Early planning to recruit council candidates began in November 2019 with a “So  
87 you want to be a councillor?” event. The candidate selection process for  
88 Edinburgh is ongoing, with the second phase due to commence imminently. The  
89 West Lothian candidate selection for the 2022 election is planned to begin in  
90 late Autumn 2020.

### 91 By-elections

92 Preparations are underway for the Craigentiny & Duddingston council by-election  
93 on 12th November 2020, with Ben Parker selected as our candidate following an  
94 online hustings. The branch is also looking to support a candidate in the  
95 Livingston South by-election scheduled for 5th November 2020.

## 97 **Membership, local groups and representative groups**

### 99 Membership

100 Our membership figures as of September 2020 are: Edinburgh 1,434 and West  
101 Lothian 98.

103 Over the course of the last year we saw an encouraging growth in the branch  
104 membership. Between July 2019 and June 2020 it had risen from 1,445 to 1,566 in  
105 Edinburgh and 96 to 104 in West Lothian. However, there has been a marked  
106 reduction in recent months. This could be explained by ongoing issues relating  
107 to the move of the party database from Civi to Forest It is also possible that  
108 the pandemic and resultant economic difficulties have led some people to cancel  
109 their memberships.

110 We are aware that many local teams are also struggling to track membership

111 levels and details and we are working with the national party to help put this  
112 right. A number of members are also not currently receiving our emails due to  
113 the party database inadvertently opting them out from bulk emails. The national  
114 party is aware of this problem and currently working on a fix.

115 The membership working group developed a strategic plan in February 2020 with a  
116 number of priorities for facilitating engagement with the branch membership and  
117 attracting new members. The Covid-19 pandemic has forced some of these ideas to  
118 be delayed, but the working group has made significant progress on drafting  
119 welcome letters for new members in consultation with local teams. These are  
120 nearly ready to be rolled out, ideally sent at the first instance by local teams  
121 in wards where this is possible.

122 We have not been receiving membership capitations for the past couple of years  
123 while the national party sorts out a new workable and sustainable system. The  
124 new system should begin and capitations should restart following elections in  
125 May 2021.

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#### 127 Local teams and sub-branches

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129 Our local teams and sub-branches are active, hosting regular meetings and  
130 events. Most have managed to move activities online following COVID-19.

131 Late last year, we delivered a “Green Party into action!” training day to  
132 support local teams better engage with their membership. As part of the  
133 Westminster election campaign, we were pleased to see local teams put this  
134 training into action, with activists out in wards right across the city,  
135 including in West Lothian too. Though COVID has restricted the ability of our  
136 teams to get out door-knocking, we will be able to resume Green News deliveries  
137 from October, and local teams have been making plans for this.

138 We have also worked with local teams to support them to manage their membership.  
139 We have produced “Welcome” letters for local teams to share with new members,  
140 and supported teams to conduct phone rounds too. Most recently this has been  
141 with the Craigentiny and Duddingston local team and West Lothian sub-branch, in  
142 advance of their respective by-elections in November.

#### 143 Representative groups

144 The national party’s Women’s Network relaunched in late 2019 and a  
145 representative from the group has sat on the Edinburgh branch committee since  
146 then. We have also worked with other rep groups including Rainbow Greens and

147 Disabled Greens to ensure the committee has a positive dialogue with those  
148 groups. We hope to support the party in establishing a Greens of Colour rep  
149 group in the coming months.

150 The committee worked particularly closely with the Women's Network to support  
151 women and non-binary nominees for Holyrood 2021, and with the Rainbow Greens to  
152 help ensure our gender balancing mechanisms are inclusive of non-binary  
153 candidates.

154  
155 The city-wide Edinburgh Young Greens group relaunched in February and the group  
156 are making plans with the Edinburgh University Young Greens to support the  
157 election campaigns in 2021 and 2022. Representatives from the Edinburgh Young  
158 Greens have been particularly active in helping organise, run and host a number  
159 of branch events over the course of the year.

#### 160 Other

161 Cllr Derek Howie has joined the party having resigned from the SNP. He will sit  
162 as an independent in the council but work constructively with the Green Cllr  
163 group.

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#### 165 **Communications**

166 Our communications team have kept up their great work this year. We have  
167 established a slick process for producing video content to share online -  
168 including recording branch events to share with members who are unable to attend  
169 in person.

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171 The branch website is being redeveloped with a fresh look and improved  
172 functionality, and is set to be launched in tandem with the Craigentiny-  
173 Duddingston by-election.

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175 While we did not print a Spring 2020 issue of Green News because of Coronavirus,  
176 Autumn 2020 issues for our ward areas are currently in draft, and will be out to  
177 local teams in early October. We have an excellent and comprehensive set of  
178 party guidelines on what it means to do leafleting during the pandemic.

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180 The talents of photographers, website designers, editors, graphic and video  
181 makers have been much appreciated throughout the year.

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#### 183 **Other committee business**

184 We have established new ways of working on the branch committee this year. We

185 expanded and consolidated a working group structure to encourage more people to  
186 get involved with the branch. Our working groups are:

- 187 • Membership and local teams: looking at ways of engaging our current  
188 membership by working with local team leads to inspire members to get  
189 active locally/branch-wide
  
- 190 • Communications: helping to organise all aspects of the branch  
191 communications; social media, print publications (Green News) and press;  
192 developing an online Media Library which has since been adopted nationally
  
- 193 • Events/Fundraising: helping to run events and fundraising activities, both  
194 at the local team and branch-wide level
  
- 195 • Accessibility: concentrating on making the branch processes/activities  
196 (events, communications) accessible and inclusive for all members

197 As part of the committee elections this year, we revised the role descriptions  
198 and introduced a process for gender balancing the committee. We have also  
199 introduced a [new AGM website](#) to make the process for electing a new committee  
200 and running the AGM easier.

201 We have also done lots of working tidying up the internal filing systems to make  
202 sure that no important documents are lost between committees, and introduced new  
203 tools and programmes to help record meeting minutes and actions.

# Report

**Proposer:** Green Councillors (decided on: 09/15/2020)

**Title:** Report: Councillors

## Report

1 **Edinburgh Green Councillors Group:**Melanie Main, Alex Staniforth, Gavin Corbett,  
2 Steve Burgess, Mary Campbell, Susan Rae, Claire Miller, Chas Booth

- 3 • The Councillors started the year with changes to portfolios aimed at  
4 broadening experience, working on our top priority of Climate Crisis with  
5 Edinburgh's 2030 Zero Carbon target and building momentum for 2022  
6 elections.
- 7 • September (2019) was especially important for climate protesters at the  
8 council. Despite advocacy by **Steve Burgess** and support on the licensing  
9 committee from **Susan Rae**, the climate protesters were told by SNP  
10 councillor Cathy Fullerton that they are explicitly banned from marching  
11 down Princes Street. Obviously this is not the support we would expect  
12 from a council that has declared a climate emergency, and both Susan and  
13 Steve worked hard to reassure young climate strikers (and not so young  
14 climate strikers) that they would be safe marching on Friday 20 September.
- 15 • **Claire Miller** joined the board of Transport for Edinburgh, which is the  
16 board overseeing Lothian Buses, Edinburgh Trams and Edinburgh bike scheme.  
17 Claire attended her first board meeting in August and has been to visit  
18 the bike scheme and the tram depot to learn more about the businesses.
- 19 • In her new role in the Equalities brief, **Mary Campbell** had a motion passed



20 by the Council to mark Celebrate Bisexuality Day, which will have the  
21 bisexuality pride flag flying on 23 September this year, and for the years  
22 after.

- 23 • In his role as Co-convenor of the council group **Alex Staniforth** held the  
24 coalition to account over the Lord Provost's flights to China. [Watch Alex  
25 on webcast here](#). Alex ensured that the concerns on sheltered housing  
26 residents were heard at GRBV and that issues regarding social isolation  
27 would be addressed.
  
- 28 • At the special meeting of Policy & Strategy committee on the Climate  
29 Emergency, in response to a deputation by Transition Edinburgh, XR  
30 Edinburgh and Scottish Youth Climate Strikers, **Steve Burgess** proposed that  
31 the Council receive a report on a Citizens' Climate Assembly so that  
32 residents voices can be heard.
  
- 33 • At Housing Committee, **Chas Booth** secured council support for housing as a  
34 human right. In finance committee, Chas Booth pushed for the views of  
35 electric vehicle drivers to be taken into account when new vehicle  
36 charging infrastructure is rolled out by the council.
  
- 37 • **Melanie Main** gained agreement at full council for the Edinburgh Council to  
38 work to secure accreditation for its welfare and advice services under the  
39 Scottish National standards as part of her work supporting reform of  
40 welfare services across Edinburgh and better access to the £82 million per  
41 year unclaimed benefits by Edinburgh residents. [Watch the webcast here.](#)
  
- 42 • **Melanie** began work chairing a new committee overseeing performance and  
43 delivery of Health and social care services in Edinburgh and won the  
44 additional of climate crisis to the long-term strategic planning for its  
45 strategic Board the EIJB.
  
- 46 • In her role on COSLA **Mary Campbell** discussed the upcoming Scottish budget  
47 with Green MSPs and COSLA officers to make sure all the groups involved  
48 are linked well and understand what is happening with the budget  
49 negotiations.

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- **Gavin Corbett** spent much time leading on the Green Group's climate emergency budget proposals, as well as developing plans for a community share issue on public building solar panels as part of his role as a board member of Edinburgh Solar Co-op.
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- Gorgie City Farm went into liquidation. **Gavin Corbett** was very active in seeking to secure a new future for the farm: taking a proposal to full council which resulted in additional funding in the short term; and working with former staff and community representatives on arrangements to safeguard public fundraising for the farm.
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- For **Susan Rae** work was very much dominated by [feithChooses 2020](#). All applications are in, scrutinised & verified, and voting day Saturday 1 February, Leith Community Centre. Susan supported the Save Leith Walk group. Following the [SLW victory in the appeal](#) over proposed demolition of the Leith Walk block of shops, the next step is looking at community buy out for the buildings. SLW is also looking at a proposal in Iona Street.
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65 COVID-19

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- **March** started as a regular month in Council and ended with lockdown. Councillors and staff were working from home by the end of March and this continues, with planning for return of some staff, and trialled reorganisation of working from home and office from mid October. Under emergency powers the CEO held the decision making powers, which were taken on a daily basis in consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leaders of the Council.
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- Political groups were kept informed and able to feed at start though weekly confidential leaders briefings, and formalised into the Leadership Advisory Panel for an extended recess until the end of April. Thereafter from May Council and committees were suspended and Policy and Sustainability Committee was brought back under temporary standing orders, to make all necessary Council decisions and advise other than those made under emergency power. In practice this meant fortnightly meetings lasting between 5 and 9 hours, mainly attended by the Group Co-conveners, with much appreciated support from other councillors.
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- The Green Group has continued to meet weekly, and much of the time of green councillors has been taken up with scrutinising Covid-19 response and supporting activity in the wards.
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- In **March** a lot of councillor time was taken up both by shutting activity down and by dealing with the consequences of this.
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- **April** was still a busy time for councillors but, obviously, for very different reasons than the norm. A lot of constituency work was taken up with ensuring people received their small business grants and making sure vulnerable people were looked after.
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- In **May** Green councillors published [a new report on a Green Recovery](#) from the Coronavirus pandemic, continued to argue for a few specific community centres to open for the sake of food distribution only given the theft of food intended for distribution, and made sure that council policy is that people who are abused should be considered above the abuser when considering housing needs.
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- In **June** at the Edinburgh councillor group AGM, Mary Campbell handed over the reins to Claire Miller as the Green representative at COSLA, where the Greens participate in the leaders meetings on issues affecting all local councils across Scotland.
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- Normally **July** is the quietest month for the City Council, as most committees take a break and resident casework slows down while people take holidays. Nothing about 2020 is normal, however, and it was as busy as ever as the Council gradually starting to bring back more normal levels of services.
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- In July **Cllr Derek Howie** resigned from the SNP and has joined the Scottish Green Party. Derek will remain an independent councillor for the remainder of this term, ending in May 2022, but Green councillor group have been in discussions about shared aims and priorities and how we might work

110 together. In our constructive discussions with Derek we have identified  
111 ways in which we can work together, whether at meetings of all councillors  
112 or at neighbourhood level. The arrangement will not change the formal  
113 Green Group of Councillors as elected in 2017.

114 • The Group held an **August** EGM and agreed that Melanie Main and Alex  
115 Staniforth would continue as co-conveners until May 2021.

116 • Full Council met for the first time on-line on 30th June, and from 1<sup>st</sup>  
117 September all other Committees are meeting. All meetings continue to be  
118 on-line.

119 Over the year Councillors have deal with literally thousands of requests for  
120 help from residents and supported and initiated numerous local projects. [You can](#)  
121 [read our full monthly reports which give highlights/examples.](#)

# Report

**Proposer:** MSPs (decided on: 09/14/2020)

**Title:** Report: MSPs

## Report

1 **Alison Johnstone**

2  
3 It's fair to say that the past year has been a challenging one. In the midst of  
4 the climate emergency and the mass extinction of species, we find ourselves  
5 tackling the impact of a global pandemic that has exposed entrenched inequality  
6 and the failure of an economic model that assumes an endless supply of planetary  
7 resources. The pandemic has devastated the lives and livelihoods of many of our  
8 constituents in Lothian and beyond and there has been a marked increase in  
9 correspondence from people seeking advice and support on a wide range of  
10 pressing issues.

11 As Co-Leader of the Parliamentary Group I have scrutinised the Government's  
12 response to Covid-19, working with colleagues, clinicians and public health  
13 experts to ensure public health measures are appropriate and timely. I sought to  
14 amend the Coronavirus legislation to improve support for carers, reaching  
15 agreement with the Government, and was defeated in my efforts to make the birth  
16 control pill available, free of charge, at pharmacies during the pandemic. I  
17 have used my opportunity at First Minister's Questions to raise a wide range of  
18 issues including the pandemic, the treatment of asylum seekers, wildlife  
19 persecution, transport, austerity and more.

20 My work in Lothian has involved meeting and supporting various local groups,  
21 organisations and individuals including Gorgie Farm who fought against closure  
22 with a well-supported local campaign involving Green Councillors and MSPs. I met  
23 with local residents in Liberton concerned at the gradual erosion of local open  
24 space to development pressures, accompanied by our local branch representative,

25 visiting sites enjoyed by many. I met young apprentices in Edinburgh's  
26 nurseries, visited the Cyrenians Fare Share project and helped local volunteers  
27 clean our city's beaches.

28 I have spoken at several Youth Climate Strikes, represented the Party at  
29 conferences including the Poverty Alliance Conference, the Nourish Scotland  
30 Conference, Scottish Women Stand and the inaugural Revive Conference. I took  
31 forward my Members Bill proposal to properly ban fox hunting in Scotland and  
32 make the mountain hare a protected species. I took advantage of the legislative  
33 opportunity afforded by the Government's Animals and Wildlife Bill and achieved  
34 the latter with overwhelming public support. As part of our budget negotiations  
35 this year, the Green MSP group achieved free bus travel for Under 19s. While the  
36 pandemic has impacted this delivery, this marks another concrete result due to  
37 our pragmatic engagement with the Scottish budget process.

### 38 **Andy Wightman**

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40 The 14 months since the 2019 AGM have continued to be dominated by external  
41 events including a General Election, the ongoing Brexit debacle and, latterly  
42 the global coronavirus pandemic. Our work in Parliament has been disrupted in  
43 recent months by the pandemic but it has been a busy year, nevertheless.

44 As MSPs, we try to get out and about as much as possible and highlights of the  
45 past year have included a visit to the South of Scotland Golden Eagle project  
46 (as Scottish Parliament's `golden Eagle species champion), a visit with Ross  
47 Greer MSP to the HarburnHead Wind Farm in West Lothian with representatives of  
48 the Lothian Pension Fund, and filming for a BBC travelogue with Frankie Boyle to  
49 discuss how Scotland's land is owned.

50 Constituency work has been wide and varied including the usual health, housing  
51 and social security issues as well as casework that has led to wider campaigns  
52 such as my representing constituent Colin Brown in the Housing Tribunal and  
53 working on a human rights challenge to private renting law.

54 I have been involved in a wide range of legislation in Parliament including the  
55 Period Products Bill, Heat Networks Bill, Scottish National Investment Bank bill  
56 and Non-Domestic Rates Bill. In the latter, we made a determined (but  
57 unsuccessful) effort to repatriate non-domestic rates to local authorities. More  
58 recently, I have been campaigning strenuously for more protection for private  
59 renters through the two emergency Coronavirus Bills.

60 Wider work has included working with residents and professionals to resolve

61 issues related to suspect cladding on residential buildings, ongoing work on the  
62 Homes First campaign along with Edinburgh Councillors and continuing efforts to  
63 eradicate wildlife crime and ban driven grouse shooting. On 5 May 2020, I  
64 introduced my Members Bill (European Charter of Local Self-Government  
65 (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill) to Parliament and Stage One scrutiny is  
66 underway.

# Report

**Proposer:** South East Edinburgh Greens (decided on: 08/13/2020)

**Title:** Report: South East Edinburgh Greens

## Report

1 **AGM Report for South East Edinburgh Greens sub-branch**

2 **Sub-branch activities**

3 Newsletters

- 4 • We produced two editions of newsletters for Southside Newington and  
5 Liberton/Gilmerton wards, writing all the copy, sourcing photos, laying  
6 out etc. Some main stories were taken up by other local teams. Print runs  
7 were 13,000 (all households) and 6,000 (just under half all households)  
8 respectively.
- 9 • Unfortunately we were only able to distribute one edition of the  
10 newsletters. The Spring edition was just about to go to print when  
11 #lockdown happened and we had to follow guidance to stay at home.

12 Stalls etc

- 13 • A highlight was the stall we held In July, under our gazebo, at the  
14 Meadows Climate Festival, where the focus was on plastics. Ross Greer MSP  
15 had attended and there had been an excellent workshop.
- 16 • In September we set up a table on Nicholson Street with the aim of  
17 encouraging adults to support the school children's climate strike that  
18 month.



- 19
- In July and August members took part in nationally organised issue surveying in The Inch, to gather information ahead of the next Holyrood election campaign. This has begun to raise our profile in the area and particularly when we were able to follow up issues raised.
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- In July we organised a successful training seminar on 'Re-framing the Narrative' around the Independence debate. This was well attended both by SEEG members and the wider Yes movement and many had come away with new ideas and skills, particularly for canvassing.
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- We had tried to organise Social Evenings for members. The first had gone OK, but the second had not been attended.
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29 Fundraising

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- We raised over £200 for SGP from the sale of craft goods produced by our members.
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32 Elections

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- In November and December many members, recent and long-standing, played a full part in the General Election campaign in support of our SGP candidate, Kate Nevens. Despite the result we all agreed this had been an excellent experience, with Kate bringing a fresh approach to our campaigning and canvassing, the benefit of working with Morningside team, and the numbers of old and new members we managed to involve in the campaign.
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40 **Finance report**

41 Income and expenditure for the 2019/2020 financial year were as follows:

42 Opening balance £380.44

43 Expenditure included room hire, online conferencing and a gazebo.

44 Closing balance tbc

45 We noted the national party is short of funds and neither Edinburgh nor Glasgow  
46 branch has been paid their capitation, and the possible knock-on effects on the

47 sub-branch.

48 **Election of office holders**

49 The following positions were elected at the SEEG AGM:

- 50 • Co-convenors: Alison Neathey and Guy Johnson
- 51 • Membership & Finance Secretary: Steve West
- 52 • Minutes Secretary: John Palmer
- 53 • Representative to Edinburgh Branch Committee: John Nichol

# Report

**Proposer:** Leith Leith Walk Greens (decided on: 09/14/2020)

**Title:** Report: Leith & Leith Walk Greens

## Report

### 1 Leith and Leith Walk Greens

2 Report to Edinburgh Branch September 2020 AGM

3 By Fraser May and Jenny Smith (outgoing co-convenors)

### 4 Meetings

5 The Leith and Leith Walk sub-branch have continued to meet monthly, initially at  
6 the Kirkgate before moving online from April 2020.

7 The 2020 sub-branch AGM was held online on 13/08/2020, attended by eleven  
8 members. At the AGM it was confirmed that Kate Joester and Mariusz Cebulski  
9 would share the role of convenors, with Mariusz acting as membership secretary.  
10 It was agreed that Maggie Holland would act as the liaison to the Edinburgh  
11 branch.

### 12 Finances and Membership

#### 13 Finance

14 The sub-branch main expenditure has been room hire at the Kirkgate for meetings,  
15 over this year this has been paid directly by the branch. The only other  
16 expenditure this year has been the hire of a stall at the Eco Fair (£30) which

17 was covered by donations on the day.

## 18 Membership Update

19 July 2019 – 303

20 April to May 2020 – between 295 and 305

21 August 2020 – 278

## 22 **Elections**

### 23 General Election

24 Members from across the sub-branch supported the December 2019 Westminster  
25 General election campaign, with activity primarily focussed on the neighbouring  
26 Target to Win wards of Forth and Inverleith. The campaign activity included  
27 material delivery but was largely targeted on canvassing.

28 Within the wards the sub-branch also coordinated A-Boards and had members being  
29 visible outside polling day.

### 30 **Other activities**

- 31 • Leith Gala Day Until the cancellation due to Covid, the sub-branch had  
32 planned to host a stall at the 2020 Leith Gala day.
  
- 33 • Leith Chooses A number of sub-branch members volunteered at the February  
34 2020 edition of Leith Chooses, with 950 attendees from across the  
35 community attending on the day.
  
- 36 • Eco Fair In November 2019 the sub-branch hosted a stall at the eco fair at  
37 Out of the Blue. The general feedback from the public was extremely  
38 positive with good support from Pete at the national office in provision  
39 of materials for the stall.

## 40 **Councillor Update**

41 As the second part of the year was dominated by the Covid lockdown, it meant  
42 that the council stopped working normally, with things like advice surgeries and

43 meetings cancelled. The planning committee restarted a couple of months into the  
44 lockdown and two full council meetings have now been held online.

45 The planning committee have been working on the city development plan, looking  
46 at making the city more for people rather than for cars.

47 As Edinburgh is twinned with Krakow in Poland the council is working with allies  
48 there to show support for the LGBT community there to demonstrate that LGBT-free  
49 zones are unacceptable.

50 Leith chooses has continued to meet and are looking at an alternative  
51 methodology for not being able to have a big event in 2021.

52 Since the 2019 sub-branch AGM the Save Leith Walk campaign successfully achieved  
53 their main aim, with the developer resubmitting plans including space for  
54 housing and social enterprises rather than the student flats. The campaign had  
55 hoped to achieve a community buy-out, however was told that there was a lack of  
56 funding available.

#### 57 **Plans for the upcoming year**

- 58 • Continue to meet monthly (either online, in person or a hybrid)
  
- 59 • Support the 2021 Holyrood campaign and build capacity for electing Green  
60 councillors in both wards in 2022
  
- 61 • Host a stall at Leith Gala Day in 2021

62 For any further details please contact [leith.leithwalk@scottishgreens.org.uk](mailto:leith.leithwalk@scottishgreens.org.uk)