

Report

Proposer: South East Edinburgh Greens (SEEG) (decided on: 06/16/2026)

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Report

1 This report covers SEEG (South East Edinburgh Greens) sub-branch activities over
2 the period June 2025 to May 2026.

3 Membership

4 Our sub-branch membership grew nearly 40% from 221 to 308.

5 We have 77 members in Liberton/Gilmerton ward and 231 members in
6 Southside/Newington ward.

7 As well as a growing active membership, we have some non-member volunteers who
8 were active in the Holyrood election campaign.

9 Meetings and events

10 Regular sub-branch meetings

11 Our monthly meetings were mostly occupied with Holyrood election campaign
12 planning, Green News delivery, and Branch events (e.g. the Sub-branches Away
13 day). They were all in-person at Nelson Hall (hybrid meetings don't work well
14 because of the room acoustics).

15 Our Southside-Newington councillor, Steve Burgess, gives a regular update on
16 both city-wide and local Council matters. We also get occasional Community
17 Council updates and have discussed progress of the Friends of Holyrood Park
18 initiative.

19 We tried out a new format, intending to have full meetings and more relaxed
20 discussion groups on alternate months. This has been well-received, although
21 election campaigning meant we only had two of the social discussion type. We
22 will get back to these when election campaigning pressure eases off.

23 **Green News**

24 We delivered 6,000 copies of a Summer 2025 edition in Liberton/Gilmerton, and
25 10,000 copies of an Autumn/Winter edition in Southside/Newington.

26 The Holyrood election campaign plan didn't include Spring editions.

27 Our delivery organisation network is a bit patchy. We no longer have local
28 delivery organisers to manage volunteers in some parts of Southside/Newington,
29 where in previous years we regularly delivered 12,000 to 14,000 copies. However,
30 our capacity has improved in Liberton/Gilmerton, where in the past we sometimes
31 only managed 3,000 copies.

32 **Holyrood election campaign**

33 We held a 'Let's Get Started' meeting in October, which attracted some new
34 people, both members and non-members. From there, we started running canvassing
35 sessions, holding two in late 2025, then gradually ramping up frequency to two
36 per week by April 2026.

37 Our canvassing operation had to start from scratch, as we previously relied on
38 the late John Palmer to organise and lead sessions. Also, we had done very
39 little canvassing in Southside/Newington ward for several years (apart from the
40 Westminster 2024 campaign). However, we gained experience and confidence, and by
41 the end of the campaign had a solid group of experienced canvassers.

42 Our canvassing, leaflet delivery, and polling day operations generally went well
43 - it was certainly our biggest-ever campaign. Volunteer numbers increased as the
44 campaign progressed, but were still a constraint limiting our activity. The most
45 visually impressive part of our campaign was getting Vote Green posters up in
46 windows, particularly in the Southside.

47 The successful election campaign has greatly boosted our confidence and
48 capacity, standing us in good stead for the forthcoming Southside/Newington by-
49 election and the 2027 Council election.

50 **Appendix - Office Bearers 2025-26**

- 51 • Joan Carter - Co-Convenor

- 52 • Guy Johnson - Co-Convenor

- 53 • Breck MacGregor - Branch Committee Representative

- 54 • Zara Lazarov - Minutes Secretary

- 55 • Stevie West - Membership Secretary

- 56 • Al Neathey - Admin Secretary

- 57 • Caroline Barr - Social Secretary