

# Suffolk GreenView

The green newspaper for Suffolk

August / September  
2013



Green Party

## Support Local Farming, say Greens

**Government action is needed to strengthen local food supplies and ensure farmers get a fair deal from supermarkets, say Green Party campaigners.**

A recent report from the Campaign to Protect Rural England argued that the major supermarkets should do more to stock local products and pay farmers a fair price. The rural campaign group has called on supermarkets to introduce shorter local supply chains to guard against the volatility of global food prices.

Suffolk Green Party has backed the report and said that the government should take action to tackle the power of the big supermarkets and provide more support to small business and food schemes that promote local produce.

Rupert Read, the Green Party's lead candidate for the European election in the Eastern region, commented: "We need stronger rules, properly enforced, to ensure that farmers get a fair price and we need changes to the tax system to make life easier for small businesses."

In Suffolk the Green Party is the only party that is standing up for small traders against big supermarkets. In south Suffolk, MEP candidate Robert Lindsay has been actively supporting the local campaign against Tesco's plans to build a superstore in Hadleigh.

In Bury St Edmunds, Green Councillor Mark Ereira-Guyer has worked closely with local businesses to create a healthy trading environment for the market town's independent shops.



**Euro candidate Robert Lindsay outside his local Bildeston shop. Greens want more government support for local businesses.**

### Green Party policies for promoting local food production

- Local councils should develop Local Food Plans for growing far more of our food locally in order to support farmers, create jobs and reduce food miles.
- Community veg box schemes and local farmers' markets should be encouraged to create direct links between growers and consumers.
- Planning policies should be introduced to favour local shops and protect the high street.
- Business rates should be abolished and replaced with a Land Value Tax based on the annual rental value of land, with agricultural land taxed at a low rate. This will benefit small businesses over supermarkets.

### GreenView Profile



#### Dr Rupert Read

**is leading the Green Party's list of candidates for next year's European election in Eastern region.**

Rupert is 47 and lives in Norwich with his wife Juliette. He is a UEA teacher and author of nine books on environmental and political philosophy.

#### Which issues matter most to you?

Issues around responsible living, economics and safer streets particularly interest me.

As a local councillor I led on getting 20mph speed limits introduced across many residential streets in Norwich.

#### How would you represent our region in Europe?

I would support small and green businesses serving our community.

Campaigning to keep public services like the Post Office and the NHS in public ownership would be a priority.

I'd like the east of England to become a hub for producing renewable energy: wind, tidal and solar power. This would safeguard our environment and create lasting jobs.

My blog:  
[www.rupertsread.blogspot.com](http://www.rupertsread.blogspot.com)

My Twitter:  
[twitter.com/GreenRupertRead](https://twitter.com/GreenRupertRead)

### Last European Election Result

*Rupert Read narrowly missed winning a seat last time. European elections are held under proportional representation so every vote counts.*

It's Close

9%

Green vote last time

10%

Votes needed to win

*With 10% of the vote the Green Party should win one of the seven seats in the Eastern region and Rupert Read would be elected as your Green MEP.*

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

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**Rupert  
Read  
Writes...**

**The 'Leave our Kids Alone' campaign calls for an immediate end to all advertising aimed at children of primary school age and younger.**

Bans on advertising aimed at young children are already working in Sweden, Quebec and Greece. It's time for a similar ban here.

Children under 11 obviously depend on their parents for money. So advertising makes heavy use of 'pester power' – enlisting children to make demands of their parents – because it is more effective than targeting parents directly. Yet what a civilised

society should require advertisers to do is to sell to parents, not to little children. When young children are learning about the cost of material things, and about managing small quantities of money, they should be free to do so without the pressures from advertising.

George Monbiot, writing in the Guardian newspaper, said: "This is a campaign about more than advertising. It's about who we are: free-thinking citizens, raised on the best information and judgment that parents and teachers can provide; or captive consumers, suckled at home and at school on subtle corporate lies."

The advertising industry, worth £12 billion a year in the UK alone, is allowed to turn techniques designed to manipulate adult emotions and

desires onto children as young as two or three. This is plain wrong. As a society we broadly agree that we should protect our children from the worst of the adult world. Teachers, child minders and those who work with children are heavily vetted to ensure that they're both safe and qualified to be trusted.

Rather than encouraging young children to value consumer goods, let's free them to channel their energies into forming friendships, discovering talents, exploring our extraordinary world and unleashing their imaginations; things that cost little but whose value is immeasurable.



**For  
further  
campaign info  
please visit:**

**[www.leaveourkidsalone.org](http://www.leaveourkidsalone.org)**

**Dr Rupert Read is the Green Party's lead candidate for the 2014 European elections in the Eastern region, a former Norwich councillor and a founder member of the Leave Our Kids Alone campaign.**



## News in Brief

**A new era of public ownership of the railways could save the Treasury more than £1 billion a year and deliver improved services and lower rail fares for passengers, said Green MP Caroline Lucas.** Dr Lucas has urged Parliament that England's fragmented railway system should be gradually brought back into public hands as franchises expire or companies break the terms of their franchise agreements. Since privatisation nearly twenty years ago, the cost of train travel has risen by 17% compared to a 7% drop in the cost of motoring. Caroline Lucas MP said: "Train operating companies are dependent upon public subsidies to run services, so it is disgraceful that these same companies then turn over an estimated 90% of their operating profits to shareholders."



**Green Party campaigners are supporting a petition calling on the European Union to uphold high animal welfare standards in a new trade agreement with the USA.** International trade deals have usually treated animals as commodities and the agreement currently being negotiated, the TTIP, makes no provision for animal welfare standards. Campaign group Care2, which set up the petition, says that the agreement will allow EU countries to buy in animal products from inhumane, industrial farms in the US. To sign the petition visit <http://bit.ly/16dsEgW>

## Children Are The Future

**Safeguarding children and future generations will be a priority for a Green MEP in Eastern region, lead candidate Rupert Read has pledged.**

The pledge follows a warning from children's charities that government changes to the welfare system and economic conditions are increasing levels of child poverty and making more families reliant on food banks to feed their children.

Rupert Read said: "Protecting the current and future welfare of our children should run through every area of government policy, from addressing safety online, to providing safe, affordable food and tackling dangerous climate change."

**Green Party policies for families**

- Promoting healthy, affordable food
- Reducing fuel poverty through free insulation schemes

- Giving working families greater flexibility to manage childcare
- Improving job-share options for better parental work-life balance
- Removing the bedroom tax and welfare changes that are hitting low-income families
- Creating new job opportunities in areas such as local food and energy production.

## Make a difference with your energy bills



We're an energy company unlike any other – we take the money our customers spend on their electricity and gas bills and use it to build new sources of renewable energy, such as windmills. People:Power is at the heart of what we do – the more people who join us, the more sources of green energy we can build. Switch and the Eastern Region Green Party will receive up to £60\*. Join us, it couldn't be easier and takes less than five minutes.

**Call us free on 08000 302 302 (quoting ERGP1)  
or visit [www.ecotricity.co.uk/er-greenparty](http://www.ecotricity.co.uk/er-greenparty)**

### Terms and conditions

1. The offer is open to UK residents in the UK aged 18 or over. It's not available to agents, distributors or any other person connected with the offer. 2. \*The offer of the £60 donation is conditional on you switching your dual fuel electricity and gas supply to Ecotricity on or before 31/12/13 having quoted the reference code printed above, £40 if you switch just your electricity supply or £20 if you just switch your gas supply. For full terms and conditions, please go to [www.ecotricity.co.uk/er-greenparty](http://www.ecotricity.co.uk/er-greenparty). You can see our latest fuel mix at [www.ecotricity.co.uk/our-fuel-mix](http://www.ecotricity.co.uk/our-fuel-mix).

**ecotricity**



# European Greens Cap Bankers' Bonuses



**Green Party Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) have successfully introduced a new law to limit bankers' bonuses.**

The cap will mean that, from 2014, bonuses paid to bankers will not exceed their salary or, with the permission of shareholders, up to twice their salary.

The move has been hailed as a breakthrough for campaigners against excessive bonuses. Lead Green Party MEP candidate Rupert Read said: "What the Greens in Europe have done is what everyone else has just talked about. The Bonus Cap will mean that bankers will no longer be encouraged to gamble with our money in the hope of running up their bonuses."

On top of the Bonus Cap, the new laws mean banks must set aside more money to avert the risk of a future credit crunch. They are also encouraged to lend to small businesses, and must disclose both their profits and taxes paid.

London Green MEP Jean Lambert said: "Coming hot on the heels of an EU agreement to implement a tax on financial transactions between big banks ('Robin Hood tax') this shows that the EU is more in touch with most people's wishes than the current UK Government. It's no wonder so many right-wing politicians want us to leave!"

UK Chancellor George Osborne opposed the cap, and unsuccessfully tried to have it stopped through the EU Council of Ministers. London Mayor Boris Johnson has also voiced his opposition.

Rupert Read said: "If elected to the European Parliament in 2014, I will be a strong voice in favour of the Robin Hood tax. I will relentlessly seek to bring bankers' bonuses under control and get the banking system working for ordinary people."

# European Parliament Goes Backwards on Biofuels

**The European Parliament risks exacerbating the environmental impact of biofuel production, Green Party MEPs have warned.**

Several European Parliament committees have recently voted to expand the EU subsidy for biofuels and to allow biofuel production to continue contributing towards renewable energy targets.

But campaigners have highlighted growing evidence that biofuels are contributing to rising food prices, reducing food security and doing little to tackle climate change.

'First generation' biofuels involve creating fuel from food crops. EU incentives have resulted in agricultural land in the UK and in developing countries being turned over to biofuel production.

Green Party Members of the European Parliament have been working with campaign groups Oxfam and Action Aid to press for a limit on the contribution biofuels can make to meeting renewable energy targets.

Keith Taylor, Green MEP for the South East of England, said: "The proposals from the Parliament

## Which Party is Really Working for You?

Nigel Farage likes to give the impression that UKIP is on the side of the people. UKIP MEPs receive a salary of over 95,000 Euros per year plus costs for their staff and offices. So how does their record compare to that of Green MEPs?

	<b>UKIP</b> 11 UK MEPs. Part of 7th largest political group in EU Parliament	<b>Green</b> 2 UK MEPs. Part of 4th largest political group in EU Parliament
<b>Bankers' bonuses</b>	Former merchant banker Nigel Farage set up a special trust fund on the Isle of Man	Introduced a Bonus Cap and are pressing for a 'Robin Hood tax' on risky speculation
<b>Clean politics</b>	Two former UKIP MEPs have been convicted of fraud – one, from Eastern region, for falsely claiming thousands in expenses	Green MEPs were ranked top in a recent league table on transparency, democracy and fighting misuse of EU funds*
<b>Votes attended in European Parliament**</b>	Nigel Farage 47% (UKIP Leader) Paul Nuttall 45% (UKIP Deputy)	Jean Lambert 90% (London MEP) Keith Taylor 95% (South East MEP)
<b>Proposals put forward**</b>	Stuart Agnew 0 (Eastern Region) Nigel Farage 1	Jean Lambert 85 Keith Taylor 30

\*Survey from [www.openeurope.org.uk](http://www.openeurope.org.uk)  
\*\*Voting record statistics from [www.votewatch.eu](http://www.votewatch.eu) Correct as of 17th July 2013.

threaten to take the EU backwards on biofuels and commit us to a future of subsidising an industry that damages our environment and contributes to food price hikes."

According to the campaign group Transport and Environment, the European Parliament currently spends over 9 billion Euros subsidising biofuels. The Green Party argues that the EU should focus on encouraging local food production and investing in clean, renewable energy such as solar, tidal and wind power.

The Green Party supports the selective use of biofuels from waste

vegetable oil and localised use of 'waste' crops where the full production process can be shown to save carbon emissions.



**For more information about the impact of biofuels please visit:**  
[www.biofuelwatch.org.uk](http://www.biofuelwatch.org.uk)

# Mental Health Cuts Must STOP

**Health professionals and charities have warned that cuts to mental health services in our region could put patient safety at risk.**

Despite a Government promise to treat mental health as seriously as physical health, NHS funding cuts are resulting in mental health services being reduced in many parts of the country.

Norfolk and Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust is cutting nearly 500 staff, including 30% of consultants. Inpatient beds are being reduced by 20%.

The Royal College of Psychiatrists has raised concerns with the Care Quality Commission that the cuts will reduce the standard of patient care. The Bury St Edmunds-based charity Workwise, which helps people recovering from mental illness to return to work, has also spoken out about the changes and said that they are already affecting staff morale.

Green Party campaigners in the region are calling on the Government to review the situation urgently. Spokesperson Adrian Ramsay said: "In talking to health professionals and patients, Green Party councillors have repeatedly heard how difficult it often already is for mental health sufferers to access support. With mental illness rates on the rise, these cuts are putting an already overstretched service under more and more pressure.

"People with mental health issues need therapeutic care, not just medication, and the relationship that staff build up with patients is crucial. Huge cuts in staffing will leave more vulnerable people without the support they need. The Government's approach of relying on the 'Big Society' isn't realistic when the voluntary and charitable organisations that would normally step in are also suffering from Government cuts."

A study by the London School of Economics showed that 23% of health problems relate to mental illness yet it receives only 13% of NHS spending.

Adrian Ramsay concluded: "The Government must urgently address this problem and ensure that mental health services are properly funded."





Suffolk Green Party has raised the alarm over dangerous levels of toxins found in the River Stour in south Suffolk.

# Our Land, Our Rivers, Our Choice

Greens in Suffolk have raised the alarm over a dramatic spike in pesticide levels in the River Stour last winter and spring, a surge that could repeat this year.

Natural England found above EU-limit levels of the slug pellet toxin metaldehyde all along the river course, in places 100 times higher than the limit.

It says the surge has been caused by farmers applying too many pellets to their autumn-sewn oil seed rape. It also found above-limit levels of eight other herbicides and pesticides in the river.

Green Euro MEP candidate Robert Lindsay, who lives in south Suffolk, told Radio Suffolk: “No one knows the effect of these chemicals on our fish and river ecosystems. But we do know that slug pellets kill dogs and cats.”

EU taxpayers pay over £3bn a year in subsidies to UK farmers but the Green Party argues that the current subsidy system encourages intensive farming.

Robert Lindsay commented: “Farmers have been trapped into a rigged subsidy system promoting growing a narrow range of crops using huge amounts of fertiliser and pesticides. This has led to the ploughing of Suffolk’s traditional meadows and pastures and has pushed many of the county’s traditional farmland birds, insects, small animals and plants into or close to extinction.”

“Meanwhile much less is put into environmentally-friendly farming and organic conversion. The EU must change priorities and encourage farming methods that both protect the environment and meet local food needs.”



Mark Ereira-Guyer, 51, is second on the Green Party's list of candidates for next year's European elections. Mark is a County Councillor in Bury St Edmunds and is Leader of the Green and Independent Group on Suffolk County Council.

**Tell us a bit about yourself.**  
I have lived in Suffolk with my family for over 20 years and was born in Essex. I work as a charity consultant running my own business and also run a social enterprise with colleagues. My wife is a special needs teacher, and my two children have both grown up and flown the nest!

**What do you want to achieve for Suffolk if elected as a Euro-MP?**

I want to make sure that the people of Suffolk get their fair share from Europe, and that Europe benefits from the rich diversity of what Suffolk has to offer. I want to be an active MEP. Suffolk needs a voice that talks up the good things achieved by Europe – for the environment, peace and security, workers’ rights – and yet we have a great deal to do. We need to radically change the Common Agricultural and Fisheries Policies. Our country in Europe must lead the world in the transition to a fair and green economy, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, protecting biodiversity and creating jobs and opportunities to reduce poverty and inequality both here and across the world.

**What are your interests outside politics?**

I love country walks, canoeing and bird-watching. I enjoy reading, poetry, learning languages and visiting galleries and museums.

## Can YOU help Suffolk Green Party?

Yes, I will help by:

- ☐ Voting Green in the May 2014 European election
- ☐ Voting Green in future local elections
- ☐ Displaying a window poster at election time
- ☐ Delivering some leaflets in my area
- ☐ Coming to a Green Party event (tick to request details)
- ☐ Supporting Green Party campaigns
- ☐ Making a donation (tick for details)
- ☐ Joining the Green Party (tick for details)

Name: .....

Address: .....

Telephone: ..... Email: .....

Please return to: Suffolk Green Party, 3 Wash Lane Corner, Combs Lane, Great Finborough, Stowmarket, Suffolk, IP14 3BJ.

Alternatively, email: [suffolk@greenparty.org.uk](mailto:suffolk@greenparty.org.uk)

The Green Party will contact you using the details you have supplied. If you do not wish to receive information from the Green Party please tick here: ☐

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