



Malvern Hills Green Party E-Newsletter

Issue No. 10

July 2012

Apologies to readers for the failure to issue an E-newsletter in June. We delayed the production process in anticipation of the West ward election on July 5th – and our intention was to distribute one straight after. But other commitments got in the way of that plan and suddenly here we are at the end of July!

Well, in case you didn't know, Julian won the election – and by a very significant margin. On a 35% turn-out, he polled 490 votes while the 2nd place (Conservative) scored 329; the independent polled 130, Labour 91 and UKIP 68. A brilliant result for us Greens – following a dedicated campaign – with two excellent leaflets posted to every household, and canvassing at every doorstep, to a large extent done by Julian himself, although we were very grateful for all the help provided by local friends and many Green Party activists across the region. Many thanks to all helpers and voters and well done Councillor Roskams!

Malvern Hills Green Party scoops regional award!

On the Saturday following the election, West Midlands Green Party held its annual awards event in Birmingham. Julian, John and Jan were there – and a good job too, because we were not only nominated for the award of the most developed local party in the year, but we were the winner! What a great way to round off a successful week for MHGP. More than this, our E-newsletter was described at the event as '*...the envy of the region...*'.

Branch meetings coming up...

Our August meeting will be on Thursday 2nd August at 8.00pm, Great Malvern Hotel.

Subsequent monthly meetings are scheduled as follows:

Thursday 6th September

Thursday 4th October

Thursday 1st November

Thursday 6th December



Goodbye Luna and Adrian and family

With her succession ensured in West ward (safely in Green hands once again) following Julian's very pleasing election victory, it was time for Luna and family to set off on their adventure out east in Malaysia. Indeed, the timing was immaculate, with their flight booked for the very next day!! We all wish them the very best and look forward to regular news from the east and to welcoming them home at some point next year. It has been so sad to lose two such committed supporters and green champions - our treasurer and one of our district councillors. But we thank them sincerely for all their energy and endeavour and for the impact they have made here in Malvern. Selamat Maju Jaya!' (which roughly translates as good luck and best wishes!) to Luna, Adrian, Florence and Eli.



And welcome back home to Jan and Chris

It is good to have Jan and Chris Dyer back home from their volunteering work in Africa (and we hope Chris's health continues to recover after the scare that brought them home earlier than intended). Jan has kindly taken on the treasurership from Adrian Deller – so we remain in full financial control of our affairs!



News from your Councillors

The District Council

The South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP) continues to dominate the policy agenda of the District Council. On July 3rd, the full Council met at the Bank House Hotel, when the officers presented the draft plan that they were hoping members would endorse and 'sign off'. Alas, speaker after speaker criticised both the overall strategy and detailed proposals within it, arguing for rejection there and then. To date, it has been us Greens who have articulated most comprehensively the need for a different strategy. So, with an embarrassing defeat staring the MHDC Administration in the face, Green Councillor Raine offered a rescue plan by proposing the setting up of a sub-group of councillors to review the contentious points in the Plan, to examine other, more acceptable options and to report back in time for the next significant decision-making point in November. The idea was supported by all but a handful of councillors – because it was seen as providing one last chance for the plan to be made more responsive to local community interests and concerns - to become a plan that we might all feel ownership of - rather than being a largely-imposed and technical solution to the main problem of how to accommodate the huge number of houses and extra employment space that we have been told



by government that we need. The councillor group (of eight members) has now begun its work – and is being chaired by Green Councillor John Raine. As indicated, the Group will be reporting its findings and recommendations by the end of September. Watch this space!!

Meanwhile, the other major issue at the present time for the District Council is its strategic review of functions, organisation and management (which is being undertaken by groups of councillors on a theme-by-theme basis). This work, which began in April, grinds relentlessly on – but with the aim of completing deliberations and formulating some concrete conclusions in the Autumn. Again, watch this space.



After the excitement of earlier in the year, with the Town Council taking on the might of the MHDC planning officers by holding a public meeting to discuss the SWDP; taking control of Rose Bank Gardens after years of neglect (MHDC again!); and another spectacular Green by-election win by Anna Stenning (we Greens are proving rather good at winning by-elections these days!), the Town Council has entered into something of a hiatus. It is keeping a watching brief on the SWDP (and the related issues of neighbourhood plans and the open space policy - for both of which working parties have been established). Anna scored a great success with her first motion, which received the support of the full council – that for any tree the council removes in renovations to Rosebank Gardens or anywhere else, they have to plant at least two of equal or improved habitat value (in a suitable location). The Council also agreed to provide educational/interpretation boards about conservation sites in the town's open spaces. However, disappointingly, Julian's attempts to persuade councillors that they should receive council papers by email, rather than having them printed and posted out every week by council staff, was met with little short of horror by councillors, who expressed themselves unwilling to 'sit all day in front of a computer screen' (!) and who regarded it as their right to receive papers in the post. This battle, however, will continue



Summer Fundraising Event 'Walk the Malvern Ridge' Saturday 15th September



Last year a few of us took to bicycles and enjoyed a lovely day out in the Herefordshire lanes, raising a little money for our much depleted funds at the same time. This year we thought for a change we should walk the nine mile Malvern Ridge. Who's up for that? The date is September 15th. We will start at Chase End Hill at the southern end, and walk back to West Malvern in time for well-earned tea and cakes! Entry fee will be just £5 per adult (for party funds) – children 50p. Transport to the start can be arranged. If you want to join us (and particularly if you need a lift to the start) please let John know (j.w.raine@bham.ac.uk or 01684 565052).

And thank you for sponsorship of John's half the Coast to Coast walk

Many thanks to all those who kindly sponsored John on his 93 mile walk in early June - from St Bees in West Cumbria, across the Lake District and on to Kirby Stephen. The seven days walking – in all weathers – was an exhilarating and memorable experience –and blister-free too! The second half – from Kirby Stephen to Robin Hood's Bay on the east coast, has already been booked for June 2013. A total of nearly £200 was raised which has been divided equally between Cancer Research UK Malvern Hills Green Party.~



Your Party Needs You

The positions of Fundraising Coordinator and Campaigns Coordinator for the Malvern Hills Green Party are currently vacant.

If you are able to help at all, even if only on a temporary basis, it would be very much appreciated.

Please contact John Raine for further information.



Contacts

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Fundraising Co-ordinator: vacant

Campaigns Co-ordinator: vacant

As well as the E-Newsletter, keep up to date by visiting the Branch's website:
<http://www.greenparty.org.uk/localsites/malvern hills.html>

We also have a Facebook page:
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Malvern-Hills-Green-Party/171627822885633>

