



# Malvern Hills Green Party E-Newsletter

Issue No. 11

September 2012

The holiday season over, back to school and the nights pulling in early once again. September can feel a bit depressing, although the recent much improved weather cheers us up. So, new season, new term, and of course for us Greens, a new national Leader – Natalie Bennett – to whom we send congratulations on her success in the recent Green Party leadership ballot, and best wishes as she takes on her new responsibilities and looks to build on the tremendous work of her predecessor, Caroline Lucas (who of course remains our

Green Member of Parliament!) And many congratulations also to Will Duckworth who was elected Natalie's Deputy. Will is a Green Councillor in nearby Dudley, but he regularly turns up elsewhere to provide help and support to other candidates in our region. Indeed, he was part of the team that came to Malvern in July to help Julian in his by-election campaign in Malvern West. 2012 has already been a great year for West Midlands Green Party – but now we have the national Deputy Leader in our midst as well!



## Branch meetings coming up...

*Our next monthly meeting will be on Thursday 4th October at 8.00pm, Great Malvern Hotel.*

Subsequent meetings are scheduled for:

Thursday 1st November

Thursday 6th December

*Please join us. We want to hear from all our many members and supporters.*

## At our September meeting...

On September 6th, once again, we discussed the South Worcestershire Development Plan, with John and Julian updating members on the progress of the special review group of elected members (which includes both our Green district councillors, and with John chairing). The group is looking at some of the more contentious parts of the Plan (eg the Newland development), and working on ways that we can answer some of the objections of local people, and deliver a Plan that is more acceptable to Malvern District.

The group has been visiting the various larger sites that have been proposed for development and is now considering the strengths and weaknesses of the planners' recommendations. The main problems are the short timeframe left before the Plan must be formally submitted and the pressures of expectation among developers who can be relied upon to press very hard for permission to build on all the sites that have been suggested. Recent pronouncements of national government have also been in the developers' favour. But we will do all we can!

John, Julian and Anna also undertook a site visit to Hanham Hall, a zero-carbon development just outside Bristol. The development has a number of very interesting forward-looking design features aimed among other things at increasing sustainability and efficiency and reducing energy consumption, and creating a pleasurable living environment. We would like to think something as innovative as this could be undertaken in Malvern.



We also had a good discussion at the meeting about waste management and, in particular, the prospects of an 'energy from waste' incinerator being built at Hartlebury to reduce/replace landfill in Worcestershire and Herefordshire. We were joined by Green Cllr Neil Laurenson, of Worcester, who articulated his concerns about this development and the risks incineration posed for public health and for taxpayers in terms of high costs.

## Councillor Reports

John and Julian reported on the latest deliberations of the district council, whose main focus at present was the development plan. There was also some discussion of the vexed issue of wheelie bins, following the district council's recent special meeting that endorsed the making of an application for funding to purchase wheelie bins for recyclables. (John was unable to attend that special meeting; Julian was one of six councillors who voted against the application – partly on the grounds of his concerns over the efficiency of recycling comingled materials). John and Julian mentioned too that they would be attending West Malvern Parish Council meeting on Monday, where the future of the Lamb would be top of the agenda. Julian reported that it had been a quiet summer for the Town Council, but mentioned a two-hour working party meeting he had attended the day before, at which the issue of installing a model railway and village in Rose Bank Gardens featured heavily. And at great length. Malcolm reported on Wells Parish Council, especially the work of its planning committee: there would be more to report in due course.



## Malvern Hills Green Party Finances: Your help needed!

Following the recent (successful) by-election, our funds are severely depleted – and indeed it was reported that we are just £50 or thereabouts in credit! We need to address fund raising and, as well as the forthcoming Malvern Hills Ridge Walk, we agreed to host another quiz evening in November (see below). But we also agreed that we needed to look more towards our members and supporters to help with donations and, ideally, on a regular basis through direct debits/standing orders.

Just £1 per month from thirty members/supporters would yield an extra £360 in the year; while £3 per month from twenty of you would raise £720, and £5 per month from just ten would still raise £600 in the year. This would allow us to produce several newsletters, that would enable us to keep local people informed of the work of local Green Party councillors and the initiatives being undertaken more widely by local members and supporters. These have proved in the past to be an extremely effective way of engaging local people in green politics.

We have the County Council elections next May and we will need to pay for several leaflets and other materials to ensure the best chance of success for our candidate for Trinity Ward, Julian Roskams. So please consider carefully how you might help – if possible, through a monthly payment arrangement. You will find a standing order form attached to this newsletter and, if you are willing to do so, please complete and return it to John Raine or Jan Dyer.



*Thank you!*

## Local Campaigns

Local Green Party councillors have been working on a number of initiatives locally in recent months, from the development plan, to recycling and waste collection and community transport. Among other issues that we might be focussing on in the coming months are the iniquitous effects of the cuts in council tax benefits.

*We want to hear from you if you have any issues that you want us to take up on your behalf, or if there are any campaigns that you would like to see us promote.*

### 'Walk the Malvern Ridge' this coming Saturday!!! (15th September)

There's still time to sign up to our Green Party fund-raising nine-mile Malvern Ridge Walk. 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 at the finish in West Malvern! Entry fee will be just £5 per adult – 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 contact John (j.w.raine@bham.ac.uk or 01684 565052). Departure time from Chase End will be about 10.30am (so transport from West Malvern to the start will be departing at 10.00am sharp!). Ice creams at the half-way stage (British Camp) and, as indicated, well earned tea and cakes back in west Malvern at about 4.30pm.



*Join us on 15th September. A lovely day out is in prospect!*

### Worcester Big Day Out: September 29th

Worcester Green Party have appealed to us for help in their next 'Big Day Out' on Saturday, September 29th. This is to help with canvassing as the branch begins its work in preparing for the next elections and working in seats that are targeted for winning. The session will begin at Louis Stephen's house (146 Bath Road, Worcester, WR5 3EP) – meeting there at 1pm for a free lunch. Then the task is to deliver and collect a door-to-door '60 second survey', and also to collect signatures from residents in support of a safer road crossing in the key ward being targeted. If you are able to spare your afternoon to this excellent work, please contact Louis Stephenson on 01905 359 509 or 0784 298 2774.

*The Worcester Big Day Out on September 29th. Your support will be greatly appreciated.*

### Quiz Night: November 9th

Come and join us for another great Green Party Quiz Night on Friday November 9th at 7.30pm at the Great Malvern Hotel. Teams of four; specialist topics and general knowledge; a little bit of acting involved too! Fun for all ages, Prizes to be won and Julian as Quiz Master! Entry just £5 per head (£15 for a foursome ticket). *A great night out: be there!!*



### 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.*

## Malvern Hills Repair Café

There is a proposal afoot to start a Repair Café in Malvern and we are looking for people to get involved in setting it up and offering their practical skills on a voluntary basis. This is a great opportunity to support a local initiative which has real economic, social and environmental benefits for the whole community.

A Repair Café provides a relaxed, friendly meeting place where people can bring their broken and/or damaged items to be repaired for free by volunteer specialists at the same time as picking up DIY skills. The idea is imported from Holland where only 3% of waste went to landfill in 2007!

Obviously, a key ingredient to the Repair Café's success is to have a team of volunteers who have the knowledge and expertise to repair a wide range of household items from electrical/electronic goods and furniture to clothing. If you would like to get involved, please do get in touch with me at: [greenleafjan@gmail.com](mailto:greenleafjan@gmail.com) or phone 01684 438539 or 07565 909654.

You can read more about the Repair Cafés network at: [www.repaircafe.nl](http://www.repaircafe.nl)

### Contacts

**Chair:** John Raine  
E: [j.w.raine@bham.ac.uk](mailto:j.w.raine@bham.ac.uk) • T: 07786 198332

**Treasurer:** Jan Dyer  
E: [greenleafjan@gmail.com](mailto:greenleafjan@gmail.com)

**Membership/Supporters Secretary:** Mel Platt  
E: [houndsl42@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:houndsl42@yahoo.co.uk) • T: 01684 560922

**Elections Agent/Press Officer:** Julian Roskams  
E: [jdr@eticapress.com](mailto:jdr@eticapress.com) • T: 01684 565739

**Elections Nominations Agent:** Richard Perkins  
E: [rsperkins@freeuk.com](mailto:rsperkins@freeuk.com) • T: 01684 568989

**Minutes Secretary:** Isabel Jones  
E: [isabel.jones486@btinternet.com](mailto:isabel.jones486@btinternet.com) • T: 07854 522114

**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>