



Malvern Hills Green Party E-Newsletter

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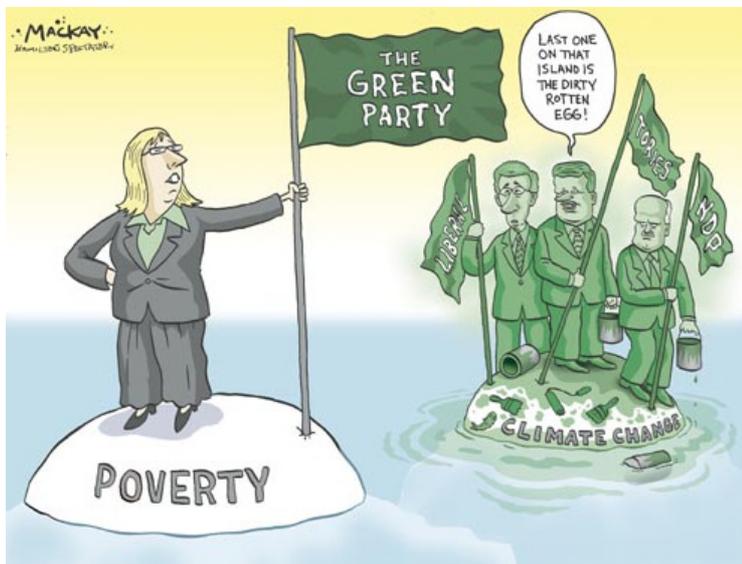
Here's wishing all our readers a very Happy and Green New Year! For those of us greens on Malvern Hills District Council, the new year begins with a significant decision – to establish ourselves as a Green Group on the Council in our own right – rather than, as for some years now, forming part of an 'opposition alliance' with the Lib-Dems and Independent councillors. The following statement issued to the Malvern Gazette explains the change:

Green Councillors Call Time on GILD

After more than twelve years of working in alliance with Liberal-Democrat and Independent members on Malvern Hills District Council, Green Party councillors have decided to 'go it alone' and operate instead as a political grouping of the Council in their own right. The decision comes in the wake of the defection of long-serving Councillor Clive Smith from the Lib-Dems to work with existing Green councillors John Raine and Julian Roskams.

As Councillor Raine explained,

"...As a group of three, we are now of a size and with the experience-base to work effectively as a Green Councillors' Group on our own. Previously, when there was just myself as a Green councillor, and then even when we won a second seat, the only way we could achieve real influence and representation on the key council committees was by being part of a larger grouping with colleague Lib-Dem and Independent councillors. But now, with three Green members, we are assured of representation on each of the main committees.



The decisions by a few of our Lib-Dem colleagues to change their minds between November and December last year and vote in favour of the controversial SWDP, was certainly a disappointment to us Greens. However, the main factor that led us to decide to go it alone was the fact that we are now assured of Green representation on the key Council committees. In most respects, little else has changed - we will continue to work constructively with all of our colleague councillors – Lib-Dems, Independents and Conservatives – in pursuit of more sustainable policies to protect and enhance our beautiful environment and for social justice for all".

Events coming up...

Saturday 26th January, 'Big day Out' in Malvern – A Campaigning Day for Greens in Malvern (see below).

*Saturday 26th January, 'Burns Night Ceilidh' at West Malvern Village Hall –
7.30pm - 12.00 midnight*

... dancing to the rhythms of 'Loose Canons'. If you haven't already bought or reserved your tickets, please hurry to do so! A great night is in prospect for everyone there – but the hall has space for only 100 people, and it's first-come-first-serve. Tickets are just £8 if ordered in advance (£10 on the door – but only if there are any spaces left). Email your ticket orders to John at: j.w.raine@bham.ac.uk or phone 07786 198332 or purchase them from Malvern Book Cooperative, St Anne's Road, Great Malvern. .



*Saturday 2nd February, 2nd Repair Café at Malvern Cube, Albert Road North, Great Malvern –
10.00am - 2.00pm*

Following on from the highly successful first Repair Café in December, come along to the next one with your broken items for our team of expert volunteers to fix for you! Clothes, furniture, electrical appliances, toys, bicycles and much more – you will be delighted at this opportunity for 'repair and reuse' (extending the working life of something of value to you) as a greener alternative to 'recycling' or worse, consigning it to 'refuse'.

Thursday 7th February, Malvern Hills Green Party AGM, 8.00pm, Great Malvern Hotel

Come along and hear the reports of another very successful year; elect our office-holders for 2013. Following the formal business, John Raine will introduce a discussion on 'Green Justice' to complete the evening's proceedings.

Monthly Councillor Surgeries at Malvern Vale as well as West Malvern

Don't forget our Green councillor surgeries – held each month at Elim Café, West Malvern and at Malvern Vale Community Centre. Come along and meet your Green councillors, Julian, Anna, John and Clive - face-to-face and raise any concerns or issues with which you think we might be able to help – wheelie bins and recycling, planning matters, council tax and benefits, housing issues, bus and other transport/accessibility concerns, highways and potholes, problems with social care and support, anti-social behaviour, difficulties in contacting the Council, and much more! We shall be there to listen and respond from 11.00am – 1.00pm on each date as follows:



Saturday 26th January (West Malvern)

Saturday 2nd February (Malvern Vale)

Saturday 23rd February (West Malvern)

Saturday 2nd March (Malvern Vale)

Saturday 30th March (West Malvern)

Saturday 6th April (Malvern Vale)

Saturday 27th April (West Malvern)



Malvern Hills Green Party AGM 2013. (on Feb 7th)

As well as electing our Branch officers for the coming year – Chair, Secretary, Treasurer – and other functions, we will also be electing candidates at this meeting for the County Council elections in May and also our candidate for the next General Election. So if you would like to be considered as a candidate for either the county or general election, please let John Raine (Chair) know as soon as possible – j.w.raine@bham.ac.uk so that your name can be included on the papers. In the case of the forthcoming county council elections, it would also be helpful if you would state which ward you are most interested to stand in, and whether you are expecting to actively canvass to win or simply wanting to be a 'paper candidate' (with a name on the ballot paper to give voters an opportunity to vote Green but no particular intentions for an active campaign).



'Big Day Out' – Saturday 26th January – Volunteers needed!



West Midlands Green Party has targeted Malvern as one of its areas in which more council seats are to be won, and for which regional support is available. And on Saturday 26th January members from around the region will kindly be coming to Malvern to help us distribute our four-side *Green Gazette* pamphlet to as many as possible of the 3,500 households in Trinity ward (covering West Malvern, North Malvern, Malvern Vale and Dysons area) as a Green councillor profile-raising initiative. This follows similar successful targeted campaigning 'Big Days Out' in other winnable wards around the region – including in neighbouring Worcester City last year, where Neil Laurenson was successfully elected. The day begins with a light lunch for everyone – and then two or three hours in the afternoon posting the pamphlets through letter boxes on a street-by-street basis in the ward, and perhaps doing some door-knocking and street survey work (identifying issues of local concern) as well. We can expect

perhaps around a dozen members from around the region, and we want at least to match this effort with our own local resources. So please volunteer to join Malvern's 'Big Day Out' and help make this a really successful promotional push. To register your availability, please email Julian on jdr@eticapress.com or phone Malvern 565739. Many thanks! And then, of course, there is our fundraising Celidh in the evening at west Malvern Village Hall to round off the day!



Contacts

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Minutes Secretary: Isabel Jones
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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>

