



Malvern Hills Green Party E-Newsletter

Issue No. 34

March 2015

Welcome to this Spring Issue of Malvern Hills Green Party's E-Newsletter – and with just eight weeks to go to the General and Local Elections on May 7th!

We have all been very busy recently preparing for the elections but we must expect the pace to become more hectic still as polling day approaches. Our Parliamentary Candidate, Julian Roskams, has recently been appearing on platforms for public debates on the health service and housing policy. And we have been making plans with our team of candidates for the district council elections for leaflet distribution and canvassing. There is still time

for more volunteer candidates to join us – closure of nominations is on April 7th, and we would particularly welcome colleagues who would be prepared to stand in some of the rural wards (where in the past the Tories have won the seats unopposed). If you are prepared to 'give it a go' (whether with the desire to win or merely as a 'paper candidate' to give people a chance to vote Green) please contact our Election Agent, Julian Roskams as soon as possible so that we can include you in the plan.



We have also been making plans for fundraising – elections are expensive and while our bank account is in better shape than it has been for a long time, we do need a lot more funding to contest the general election (e.g. for the £500 deposit and for the 'free-post' leaflet circulation (printed leaflets) to all households in the constituency). Two up-and-coming events are as follows:

Musical 'Fun-Draiser' – Sunday 22nd March.

Come along this Sunday afternoon and evening, 22nd March, to our Musical Fun-Draiser, from 5.00pm – 9.00pm at Malvern Cube. Spend a relaxing few hours enjoying a mix of musical styles from our local musical talent. Amongst the artists – who are all generously giving their time free to boost our election fund-raising – are Trum, Brickshed, MT and Company, Sue Thompson and Mark Stevenson.

Soft refreshments will be available but if you want something stronger, you are welcome to bring your own.

Tickets are only £6.00 and can be bought in advance from Malvern Cube's 'Cake Tin Café' and from Carnival Records, 83 Church Street. Alternatively, you can reserve tickets by emailing Jan Dyer at greenleafjan@gmail.com. Tickets will also be available at the door from 4.30pm on Sunday. An event not to be missed



Quiz Night at Malvern Vale Community Centre – Saturday 11th April at 7.30pm.

Quizmaster – Prospective Parliamentary Candidate, Julian Roskams, and DJ for the Evening, Les Wright (Chair of Malvern Vale Residents' Group). £5 per person (£15 for a table of four). Prizes for winners and runners up, and a Raffle as well. Tickets on the door. Be there!

General Election Green Deposit Bonds

As in previous General Election years, we are offering our 'General Election Green Deposit Bond Scheme' and we invite our supporters to invest in one or more of our bonds (valued at £10, £25 and £50) – each of which will be issued with a unique serial number that will tally with our records of the name and address of each investor. Assuming we successfully save our deposit on General Election day, the bonds will be redeemed to their investor.

To purchase your bond(s), please complete the application form at the end of the newsletter; or contact our Treasurer, Jan Dyer, at 131 Tennyson Drive, Malvern WR14 2UL; email address: greenleafjan@gmail.com; home telephone number: 01684 438539.

Up-and-Coming Events

Saturday 21st March – Repair Café at Malvern Cube 10.00- 2.00pm

Sunday 22nd March – Musical FunDraising Event -5.00pm – 9.00pm – Malvern Cube.

Saturday 28th March – Councillors' Surgery at the Sugar Loaf Café, Elim Centre, West Malvern, from 10.00- 12.00 noon. Come along and meet John Raine and Julian Roskams (your Green candidates for West Ward, Malvern Hills District Council)

Saturday 4th April – Councillors' Surgery at Malvern Vale Community Centre from 9.45- 11.45. Another Opportunity to meet your Green Candidates – this time also with Chris Reed (Candidate for Dytsons Ward).

Saturday 11th April – Quiz Night at Malvern Vale Community Centre, 7.30-10.00pm.

Debates

NHS

About 40 people attended a wide ranging discussion on clinical care, mental health, PFI, the integration and local control of health and social care and privatisation at a public meeting on the future of the National Health Service, organised by the Malvern Hills Green Party, held last Thursday (26/2) at Lyttelton Well.

Dr John Blewitt, the event organiser and Chairman of Malvern Hills Green Party, said:

The debate was lively and good natured demonstrating the importance of local public participation and democratic deliberation on the NHS's future in our community.



save our



The panel of speakers included: Dr Jonathan Leach from the Royal College of General Practitioners, Glyn Coventry from the mental health support group Positive Thoughts, Professor Joel Talcott from the School of Life and Health Sciences at Aston University and Cllr Julian Roskams, Green Party Parliamentary Candidate for West Worcestershire. The event was chaired by Mr Carl Flint, the Malvern and Worcester co-ordinator for the Royal Society of Arts.

Cllr Julian Roskams, Green Party Parliamentary candidate says,

The NHS is one of the most efficient in the world but now every area of healthcare is open to the private sector whose primary motivation is extracting profit from NHS services by reducing staffing levels that could compromise safety and quality. We must ensure our public NHS survives so that everyone is treated equally according to need, rather than their ability to pay.

Affordable Housing

On 14th March, Green Party Parliamentary candidate was one of the panellists at the Lansdowne Road Methodist Church debate on affordable housing, attended by 80-90 members of the public. The other panellists included the UKIP parliamentary candidate, Richard Chamings, and the Liberal Democrat candidate Dennis Wharton. Initial presentations by the panellists was followed by a lively and well-informed question and answer session with the audience.

The text of Julian's presentation was as follows:

By abandoning housebuilding to the private sector successive governments have let us down. Local authorities no longer build and so fewer homes are being delivered than at any previous peacetime period since world war one, 109k completed in 2013 compared to around 300k a year in the 50s to 70s. Just 5% of government housing expenditure is spent on building new homes. Developers respond to the market – building houses for those who can afford to pay top prices for them – and are not interested in meeting the urgent need for affordable homes.

With a shortage of homes, the waiting lists for social housing have never been longer – more than 1.8 million are on the waiting list for a home – an increase of 81% since 1997.

Some families living in desperate conditions are being forced to wait years for a suitable home. They may have to live for months in temporary accommodation, uncertain where they'll be moved to next, or how much longer they'll have to wait for stability. Every 15 minutes a family with children is made homeless in this country.

Others will be left with no choice but to live in the private rented sector. With short-term leases, unpredictability, poor conditions and high costs, this form of housing is unsuitable for many households, especially the vulnerable and those in need of a stable, secure home.

The Green Party has committed to building 500k socially rented homes by 2020, increasing the social housing budget from £1.5



team. First up is a proposal for a shared Head of Planning (with the Malvern Hills Head lined up to oversee Wychavon planning as well). Also proposed is the appointment of a Deputy Chief Executive for Malvern Hills (something that we have never previously had – and which would seem largely to negate any advantage in the scheme of sharing a chief executive that was foisted upon the Council by the Tories last year. Malvern Greens were always sceptical about the case for sharing a chief executive that was made to Council last Summer – and when the Tory leadership was adamant in denying there would be any further sharing of management teams. But, as we expected, it is all happening now – and much of the anticipated predicted financial savings look like simply being channelled into inflated salaries for the fortunate few senior staff who are not expected to look after two local authorities. It is such dishonesty from the Tory leadership that we Greens are so keen to say good bye to on May 7th.

Hustings

So far, the following dates for Parliamentary hustings have been announced:

19th April – Christ Church, Malvern

26th April – Kempsey

1st May – West Malvern

21st April – has been pencilled in as the date for Pershore. And Hanley Swan are trying to find a date that will suit all the candidates. Venues will be confirmed in due course.

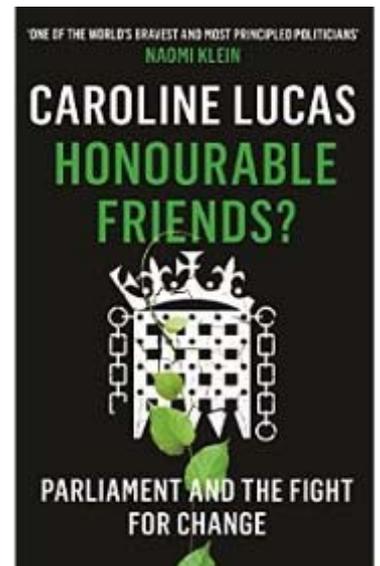
If you can come along to support Julian then please do so.

Green Book of the Month

Honourable Friends? Parliament and the Fight for Change – by Caroline Lucas
London: Portobello Books, 2015. £14.99.

This is the story of Caroline's first five remarkable years in Westminster. It offers bold and practical suggestions for a fairer British political system. As Naomi Klein writes: "...So many of us are struggling with the crisis at the centre of this book; we know our political systems are hopelessly broken but we also know that our collective challenges are too big, and too urgent, to be tackled through outside pressure alone. We need a new kind of politics, outside and inside at once. Caroline Lucas is perfectly positioned to share hard-won wisdom that will help us chart this crucial course...".

You can obtain your copy from Malvern Book Co-operative, St Anne's Road, Great Malvern.



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Councillors

County Councillor (Trinity Division) – John Raine (07786 198332 or j.w.raine@bham.ac.uk)

District Councillors (West Ward) – Julian Roskams (jdr@eticapress.com or 01684 565739) and John Raine (as above)

District Councillor (Link Ward) – Clive Smith (CTSmith@waitrose.com)

Town Councillors (Dyson Perrins) – Julian Roskams (as above)

Town Councillor (Link Ward) Clive Smith (as above)

Town Councillor (Chase Ward) Alex McLellan (alexander.r.mclellan@gmail.com)

Parish Councillor (Malvern Wells) Malcolm Victory (malcolmvictory@tiscali.co.uk or 01684 575156)

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>



**Application form for Malvern Hills Green Party Parliamentary
Election Deposit Bond**

Please send me election deposit bonds at £10 / £25 / £50 per bond

Please tick those which apply:

- I enclose a cheque for £.....
Cheques payable to 'Malvern Hills Green Party'

- I confirm that I have paid by electronic payment to:
Account number: 65607147 Sort code: 08-92-99 with reference 'MHGP Bond (add your name)'

- I understand that if Malvern Hills Green Party fails to get 5% of votes my bonds will be rendered null.

Name:

.....

Address

.....

Signature

.....

If our deposit is refunded you may, if you wish, claim back your bond/s by entering your details on the tear-off slip below and sending it to the Treasurer.

Please complete this form and return to:

**The Treasurer
Malvern Hills Green Party
131 Tennyson Drive
Malvern
Worcestershire WR14 2UL**

I wish to claim back the cost of my bonds, serial number/s.....

Name.....

Address.....

Signature.....

Malvern Hills Green Party

Standing Order Form

Individual Details

Title Forename(s).....
 Surname
 Address

 Postcode

Joint Details

Title Forename(s).....
 Surname.....
 Address

 Postcode

Bank Details

Name of Bank.....
 Address

 Postcode

Account No
 Sort Code
 Account Name.....

For the attention of my bank:

I/we wish to make a monthly donation to Malvern Hills Green Party of

£1 £2 £3 £5 £10 £20 Other (please state amount)

Please pay the sum of £monthly starting on:

...../...../..... (day / month / year) and on the same day each month thereafter to:

Malvern Hills Green Party
 Account No. 65607147
 Sort Code: 08-92-99

Signature Date

Please send this completed form direct to your bank.