

GREEN PARTY NEWS

JANUARY 2022

OLD TOWN & WORSHAM

NEWS UPDATE FROM POLLY GRAY YOUR OLD TOWN & WORSHAM COUNCILLOR



Polly is your local Green Party Councillor on Rother District Council. She was elected by you in May 2019.

“ A Happy & Healthy New Year to you all! I hope that 2022 will be a more ‘normal’ year for everybody.

Since my October newsletter, I've dealt with 21 emails and 8 phone calls from residents. It's always great to hear from people! People are most concerned about **traffic speeds** and **road safety** for pedestrians so **I'm working hard to get the district and county councils to take these issues more seriously.** You can sign our petition for 20mph speed limits via my facebook page, @CouncillorPollyGray .

I met with our MP Huw Merriman and with Joe Winchester, our new Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) for Old Town & Worsham and was able to tell both of them directly about people's concerns in Old Town & Worsham.

In November, I heard that the lights at the empty Next store at Ravenside had been left on 24/7 since the store closed in August. I contacted Next's Head Office who promised to get the lights turned off. Lighting accounts for nearly 5% of global CO₂ emissions, so small actions like this make a difference.



Image source: Bexhill Observer

I've helped to plant another 212 trees on Bexhill Down (that's me on the left below with Wendy Dennis (the organiser of Friends of The Down), and gave a talk about trees to the residents of Marine Court.

I'm now on the Committee of Bexhill in Bloom which is exciting. Bexhill in Bloom supports wonderful local projects such as the Bexhill Neighbourhood Gardeners Allotment pictured below.



Is there anything you want help with or anything in your area that needs sorting out? Let me know and I'll try to help. ”

Councillor Polly Gray

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Polly

BEXHILL DESERVES BETTER PUBLIC TRANSPORT



Green Party campaigner, **Arren Rathbone Ariel**, was shocked when he took his daughter to St. Leonard's by bus last month. “A return dayrider ticket for me cost £7.50, plus another £1 each way for my daughter. In London, that ride would have cost me just £3.10 and kids travel for free!” Arren says: “Prices this high are wrong: they punish people who don't have a car and actually *discourage* people from using cleaner, greener alternatives. **Public transport should be easily affordable by everybody.**”

Arren adds, “People don't want to hang about, not knowing how long they'll have to wait (that's me on the left, at the Old Town bus-stop). But if people knew a bus would arrive in under 10 minutes, they'd be more likely to use one. **Bexhill needs more reliable and more frequent buses.**”

If you too would like to see more reliable, more frequent and more affordable public transport, get in touch with me via arren-green@nowherefolk.org . Together we might make something happen!

POLLY & THE GREENS: WORKING WITH PEOPLE AND GETTING THINGS DONE

WE'VE BEEN ACTIVE IN YOUR AREA

Green Party volunteers were out and about in late 2021 lending a hand with a variety of community activities.

Four of us supported another Strandliner beach clean, this time at Beaulieu Beach in Bexhill. The group collected, identified and recorded every non-natural thing found in a 100m stretch of coast line. As more data is collected, we improve our understanding of the sources of plastic pollution and the solutions needed.

Six Greens helped with the Community Supporters litter pick around Sidley in November. We cleared up lots of drink cans and sweet packets. The residents loved the improvement!

A couple of volunteers helped to scythe a meadow at Combe Valley Countryside Park. It was 40 years since Joe (right) last held a scythe!

The Green Party's volunteers enjoy joining in with all sorts of local activities. **Would you like our help with a community event in your neighbourhood?** Please get in touch with Sue at sueburtongreen@gmail.com or on 07952166819.



JOIN THE GREENS

Green campaigner **Arren Rathbone Ariel** says:

"I joined the Green Party as **they put people and nature joint first** and offer a brighter horizon for my two daughters."



Here in Bexhill, there are lots of issues that need action, such as road safety, housing and homelessness, climate, transport, poverty, development, drugs and health. **The Greens have got fair and workable solutions** for all of these."

The Green Party does politics differently. You can join us at join.greenparty.org.uk

COVID-SAFE DELIVERY

To keep you safe, this leaflet has been delivered according to government guidelines.

All our volunteers have masks, gloves and hand-sanitiser.



All our volunteers either work alone or in same-household pairs or socially-distanced pairs.

We don't enter private homes.

We don't pay people to deliver our leaflets.

NEW YEAR RE-SOLUTIONS FOR 2022

Most of us make New Year Resolutions in January, so why not make those resolutions green ones? Here are some simple lifestyle tweaks everyone can make at home. **Even small changes can sometimes make a big difference.** Many of these changes could **reduce your cost of living too!**

REDUCE Only buy the food you need for the week ahead so there's less waste. Ask yourself, do I really need this?

RE-USE Buy from charity shops. For free stuff, check out the "Bexhill Give and Takey" facebook group. Re-use wrapping paper next year.

REFURBISH Maybe that old table just needs a bit of TLC (filler, stain and polish). Maybe that old sofa just needs re-stuffing or new loose covers? Get a refurbished mobile phone instead of brand new – you'll save a fortune!

REPAIR Bikes, toasters, computers and shoes can often be fixed for much less than the cost of buying new. Find your local repair shop or check out a repair café near you (see article below).

REPURPOSE Use old toothbrushes to clean those hard-to-reach crevices. When clothes wear out, cut them up to use them for cleaning cloths, cushion covers or a patchwork quilt. Re-use Christmas and birthday cards to make unique gift-tags.

REFUSE Don't buy single-use items. Avoid plastic packaging. Buy cleaning products from re-fill shops. Buy fruit and veg loose instead (it's cheaper too!).

RETHINK Re-think your choices. Ask yourself "Do I really need this?" and "Is this good for people and the planet?"

RECYCLE Wherever possible, recycle items if you can't reuse them or give them to a charity shop.

WHAT'S A "REPAIR CAFÉ" ?

Green member Sue Burton went to visit the repair cafés in Hastings and Horam to find out more about them. People take stuff that needs mending to get it fixed by volunteer 'experts'.



I was shown how to darn my hiking sock, so now I don't have to buy a new pair.

Every time we repair something rather than throwing it away, it's a win for your purse and a win for the planet.

If you might be interested in setting up something similar in Bexhill, please get in touch with Sue on 07952166819 or via sueburtongreen@gmail.com.

POLLY & THE GREENS: WORKING HARD FOR YOU ALL YEAR ROUND

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