

Dear Members and Supporters,

Here we are at the beginning of a new year, with the PPC baton being passed from my husband Rob to myself just before Christmas. Last year we had the County Council Elections and the snap General Election to handle. Rob did an admirable job stepping up as GE candidate to offer voters the opportunity to vote Green. We had some great feedback from many people, glad that we had offered that choice in a challenging political climate. We will continue to do this as we move into 2018; the next definite elections to plan for are the District and Parish Councils in 2019 and we will field as many candidates as we can for this.

On that subject, there is an upcoming by-election for Misterton Parish Council on 15th February.

<https://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/elections-and-voting/by-elections-being-held-on-15th-february-2018/>

Potential candidates must reside within 4.8 kms of the parish (so that would include people living in the Crewkerne area) or have worked there for the previous 12 months. Closing date for nominations is Friday 19th January. The Green Party wants as many members as possible to stand for as many local government seats as we can this year to offer the Green choice to voters and increase our presence. Anyone who might consider standing, please contact myself. Our Election Officer Peter Bysouth would be able to help you with the paperwork required, and Rob and I are willing to offer any support we can (Rob is currently serving on Brympton Parish Council).

Our next local party meeting is this Monday 8th January at 19:30 at the YESS Club in Yeovil. All members and supporters are most welcome. Our meetings are relaxed and friendly: a drink, a chat, some planning, and setting the world to rights with like-minded people! Please do consider coming along, particularly if you might be interested in the Misterton by-election, I hope to see some of you there (Rob has babysitting duties that night!)

Yes, the Green Party is a small voice in UK politics but if more of us stand up and be counted, the louder that voice will be. I look forward to meeting more of you as time goes on, and will be sending regular emails to keep you informed. Meanwhile, if you haven't already, please follow me on Facebook and Twitter:

GreenDiane4Yeovil
@GreenDiane4Yeo

Wishing you all a Happy New Year.

Best wishes,