



Green Party

VILLAGE GREEN

WINTER 2023

BERNWOOD



**Councillor
Gregory
Smith**

Are you missing benefits to which you are entitled?

Recent data from the Department for Education shows that nearly 1/3 of eligible children in Buckinghamshire are not getting the **free school meals** to which they are entitled. Councillor Gregory Smith says that “you can find out if your children are eligible by contacting Buckinghamshire Council”

You may also be entitled to an **Energy Efficiency Grant**. These are provided to households with gross income of less than £30,000 or who are receiving certain benefits and whose properties have an energy rating of D, E, F, or G. To find out more go to <https://buckinghamshire-applications.co.uk/> or phone 02921 680951.

If you need a **food bank** you can get advice from your doctor, social worker or the local Citizen’s Advice Centre on how to access one.

For **other advice** call Councillor Gregory Smith, on 01844 680951, who will help all he can.

SAY ‘NO TO THE COALMINE’

Councillor Gregory Smith has written to our MP to protest about the proposed Cumbria coalmine. This project cannot be part of Britain’s path to net zero carbon when what is needed are green jobs for the future. Gregory says “after leading on climate objectives Britain must not now lead on broken promises. These kind of actions will affect all our futures”. If you are worried too then email or write to our MP and tell him what you think. MPs take letters from constituents very seriously.

HADDENHAM ELECTRIC CAR CLUB



In December the Haddenham Electric Car Club was launched. Electric cars reduce CO2 emissions but the manufacturing reductions are even better when you only rent a car when you need it. Now you can do that for any time between 1 hour and 7 days. You just pay for the time you need the car. The scheme is being run by a local hire company, 3B, in liaison with the Parish Council and the Village Hall. Find out more at <https://zeroch.org/electriccarclub/>

WISHING YOU A HEALTHY AND PEACEFUL 2023

WHO IS HOLDING HS2 TO ACCOUNT?

Councillor Gregory Smith attends a number of scrutiny committees in his role representing your interests. Gregory was expecting to hold HS2 to account for the disruption caused by frequent and unannounced road closures and the consequences for local business and residents. Unfortunately HS2 were unable to provide key managers who could provide sufficient information and make appropriate decisions. As a result the Scrutiny Committee was postponed until they are able to get their act together. Aylesbury Vale Greens will keep pushing for answers and will keep you informed.

THAME WATER TESTING

The River Thame Liaison Group brings together senior managers from Thames Water with residents, businesses and community groups to monitor water quality and waste water discharge into our rivers. Councillor Gregory Smith attended a recent meeting and says "Whilst it is great to see significant improvement in water quality and investment in treatment facilities, there is still a lot of work to do. Your local Greens will continue to press for improvements for the benefit of the whole community".

LOCAL WARM SPACES

Don't forget you can go to a warm (welcoming) place in **Haddenham** on Tuesdays (Haddenham Methodist Church), Thursdays and Fridays (Haddenham Library and Village Hall) from 10 am to 4 pm until February 28th. Drinks and lunch are available.

The library in **Long Crendon** is also a warm space and is open Tuesday afternoons 2-5, and Wednesday and Saturday mornings 10-1.

LONG CRENDON FLOODPLAIN PROJECT



Photo courtesy of Freshwater Habitats Trust

A floodplain wetland habitat has been created, on a farm in Chearsley, under the guidance of the River Thame conservation Trust and the Freshwater Habitats Trust. It is hoped that this will help to reverse the decline of freshwater wildlife. Rose Dale, who farms at Manor Farm, organically and regeneratively, producing pasture-fed beef and lamb, says that we have lost a great deal of biodiversity in a short space of time and she wants to nurture what is there and improve it to a flourishing natural state. Some of the area has now filled up with water and is already attracting different species of birds. When the wetland plants appear in the summer there should be additional biodiversity. What an inspiring project!

HELP WITH DELIVERY

Could you deliver the Village Green in your street? If you could please email info@aylesburyvale.greenparty.org.uk . Your help would be much appreciated.

**You can contact Councillor Gregory Smith at
Greg.Smith@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
01844 292713**