



# MALAGO VALLEY CONSERVATION GROUP

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# **NEWSLETTER**

No. 4  
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1995

**A**POLOGIES for the late arrival of this *Newsletter*. We aim to get one out every two months and this should have appeared in the first week of May. A combination of holidays and pressure of work has put it back a couple of weeks.

However, we are still in time to remind you of the **FUNDAY** which is happening in Manor Woods this weekend, Saturday 27 May, from 2pm to 5pm. The programme group have worked extremely hard to put together a varied range of attractions and activities which offer something for all ages and interests. Do please come along, and bring your family and friends.

As you will know, the recent local government elections resulted in some changes in our area. The existing county councillors continue until 1 April 1996 when Avon goes, but the newly-elected councillors for the future City and County of Bristol are already running the existing City of Bristol District. One of the present county councillors, Bernard Chalmers, was elected for the same ward (Hartcliffe) on the new Bristol council but the other county councillors will retire from the political scene next year. In Bedminster and Whitchurch Park wards there was no change in the Bristol councillors but in Bishopsworth we have two new councillors, Terry Cleverley (who previously represented Hartcliffe) and Paul Walker. We look forward to working constructively with all our councillors, old and new.

Richard Eddy is no longer on Bristol Council and therefore no longer *ex officio* co-opted onto the M.V.C.G. Committee. Richard has been very helpful in providing background information on the issues which concern us. However, he is an M.V.C.G member anyway and will continue to work with us to improve this part of Bristol.

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ANDRÉ COUTANCHE

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## GETTING A GRIP ON LITTER

**A**S PART OF NATIONAL SPRING CLEAN WEEK, M.V.C.G. organised a litter clearance, targeting some of the 'black spots' in BS13. We have learned from the experts that roads and pavements get cleared regularly by the City Council but litter collects in other public places like parks and open spaces, footpaths and verges.

Wearing colourful '*Get a Grip on Litter*' tabards, two groups started from the '*Queens Head*' pub and Bishopsworth Library and covered areas including King Georges Road, Witherwood Park, Elm Tree corner, Manor Woods, Fernsted Road, Church Road and Derham Road.

A third group, mainly children from the Hartcliffe Health and Environmental Action Group's Saturday Club, met at Symes Avenue and also worked their way to the Gatehouse Tenants Centre which was the finishing point for all the groups and where squash/tea and biscuits were waiting.

Heavy-duty gloves and black sacks were provided by the City Council and Boots the Chemist in Hartcliffe, and more gloves came from Harcross Building Supplies in Hartcliffe Way - our thanks to them for their help. About 40 bags of litter were collected and taken by van to a central point where they were picked up later in the week by council workmen.

Thank are due to all the 30 people who helped on the day - and watch out the rest of you - we will probably make this an annual event!

CHRIS LILLINGTON

### LATER LITTER

IT'S SUMMER - at least the evenings are lighter - so we are changing the times of the monthly garbage raids to enable more people to be available. Instead of the last Friday afternoon of the month, we will now be collecting litter on the **last Monday of the month**, meeting at **7.00pm**. The next session is therefore on **Monday 29 May** and the rendezvous is at 7.00pm at ***Bishopsworth Library***.

## OUR LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

**H**AVE YOU WALKED through any of our many and diverse types of parkland recently? If you have, I expect you have been pleasantly surprised to see the improvements that the authorities have made.

In Manor Woods, picnic tables and benches have been set out along the route of the Malago stream and the footpath from Valley Road to the Malago Greenway has been given a tarmac finish.

The park in Witherwood behind 'The Willows' (the Area Housing Office) has had the fence replaced between Fouracres School and stiles provided in its perimeter in an attempt to give limited access to the playing fields and to prevent further fence damage. A children's play area has also been built and surrounded by a low fence for the youngsters' security.

Strawberry Lane has had a barrier erected at its top end to prevent vehicular access and part of its surface has been coated with stone chippings to give a better surface for the many walkers who now use the path.

At the left-hand entrance to the Sartan Club in Queens Road, pillars have been erected to prevent vehicles gaining access to the open strip of land by the Malago which has been a local dumping area - but has recently been cleaned up by M.V.C.G.'s garbage squad (see the last *Newsletter*).

JOHN TAYLOR

### **BLOOMING BS13**

To all residents of BS13 - here's your chance to win a prize!

As one of our aims is to encourage improvement in the appearance of the area, we plan to give some awards for attractive hanging baskets/window boxes/planters on display during July.

We would like members' help in this, so please let me know if you spot any that are particularly eye-catching which you think should be considered. My address is 84 King Georges Road and my phone number is 964 1116.

So get planting, and - who knows? - you might even be a prize-winner yourself.

LOLA HARDINGHAM

## DOWN THE DRAIN

**P**AUL THOMPSON OF WESSEX WATER gave us a very interesting talk and slide presentation on 6 April. He began by explaining that Bristol Water plc provided the local water supply but Wessex Water plc provided the sewerage services for the counties of Avon, Somerset, Wiltshire and Hampshire. In addition to the sewerage services, they also provide the water supply for much of Wiltshire, Somerset and Hampshire.

In the largely rural area that they serve, Wessex Water abstracts 80% of their drinking water from boreholes and 20% from lakes or impounding reservoirs. The lake water requires considerable treatment before it reaches the customer but the borehole water is relatively clean and requires only the minimum amount of sterilisation. The 10,000km of water mains are all being re-lined at present to overcome some of the problems of dirty water in the system. The mains network is supplied from 148 sources, 118 treatment works and 305 pumping stations.

The network of 13,000km of sewers in the whole of the Wessex area, including Bristol, is providing a service for 2½ million customers and dealing with an average flow of 800 million litres per day. The system of sewers is supported by 1200 sewage pumping stations and 349 treatment works.

We were informed by Paul that the sewerage ring main around Bristol had already cost £23 million and it was planned that a further £77 million would need to be invested in this mammoth project before it was completed.

During the questions and discussion after the talk, we quizzed Paul about the condition of the Malago stream, just as we had asked Mandy Long from the City Council's Environmental Health Department when she came to talk to us back in November. It's still not clear - at least to us - who takes the initiative for making sure that foul water doesn't reach the Malago. And the *Evening Post* on Saturday 13 May had an article about the condition of the lower part of the Malago in Bedminster; the National Rivers Authority were reported to be asking people for their views on Bristol's waterways. We shall certainly be following this up.

JOHN TAYLOR

## MAKING TRACKS

**T**HE LAST *NEWSLETTER* set out M.V.C.G.'s initial thoughts about the 'Westway', the Light Rail Transit system through south Bristol. Since then, the Committee have spent more time thinking about it and we have now written formally to Avon with our views.

The main change from what we set out in the last *Newsletter* is a hardening of our attitude to the proposed route of the line into the Wills factory site from the west. As currently intended, it would turn into the top of Crox Bottom (near the end of Cater Road) and then skirt the edge of the lake on an embankment before swinging across the bottom of the lake on a bridge. This would be a massive intrusion into a beautiful and well-used green space.

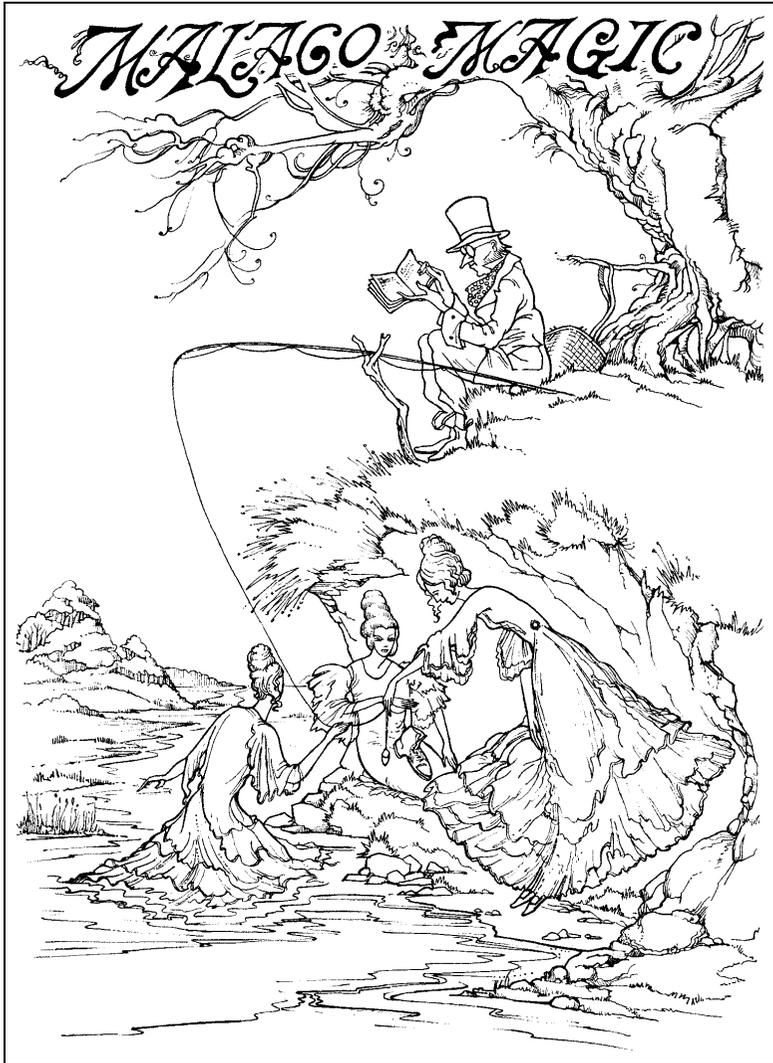
It also seems quite unnecessary, as the line could just as easily (more easily, perhaps) follow the line of the slip road down to the main road entrance and then turn north into the factory site. It could be on an embankment here if necessary - there are no natural ground levels to spoil.

If you agree with this view, please write to Mr E. Bracewell, Director of Highways, Transport and Engineering, PO Box 87, Avon House North, St James Barton, Bristol, BS99 7XZ to reinforce the message.

The L.R.T. issue has resulted in some very useful co-operation with other environmental bodies. Bristol Civic Society passed us an early copy of the map of the route and we repaid the compliment by taking members of its Transport Group on a guided tour of south Bristol to show them how the line would impact on our area. We also worked with Brislington Conservation and Amenity Society to make sure we understood the implications in south-east Bristol and reinforced the views of the Malago Action Group in expressing a preference for the 'Parson Street' option over the 'Malago' option.

Some people have expressed the understandable feeling that it's all pie in the sky and they won't see it in their lifetime. They may well be right - the Ring Road has been a line on the map through Withywood and Bishopsworth since before the war. However, we are concerned that the *right* route is chosen now and we don't get saddled with a blighted area where maintenance and improvements are neglected because it's earmarked for the L.R.T.

ANDRÉ COUTANCHE



This is the poster which has gone to local junior schools as a colouring competition and to publicise the Manor Woods Funday. The original - by Anton Bantock, of course - appeared in *Malago Magazine No. 6* back in 1977, along with the 'history' (which we reproduced on the back of the poster for the schools) of the three nymphs of the Malago - Veral, Vi and Veronical. To hear the full, ghastly, tale, *come to the Funday!*

## PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS AND EVENTS

**T**HE PROGRAMME is moving into summer mode. There are no more 'talk' meetings until the autumn (any ideas for speakers or subjects gratefully received), but we concentrate on getting out and about in our area. Many of the walks have been arranged by the University of Withywood, and we are grateful to Anton Bantock for inviting M.V.C.G. members to come along to those which cover our patch. There is a charge of £1 for these walks which goes to support educational projects in the Third World. The full programme of University of Withywood events can be obtained from Anton or from Chris Lillington.

**Saturday 27 May:** *Funday* in Manor Wood. See opposite and overleaf for more information.

**Sunday 28 May:** in conjunction with the University of Withywood and Dundry Local History Society - *Dundry walk*. Meet at Cross Cottage, East Dundry at 2.30pm.

**Monday 29 May:** *Garbage Raid* - meet at Bishopsworth Library at **7.00pm**. PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN DAY AND TIME FROM PREVIOUS LITTER COLLECTIONS.

**Thursday 8 June:** in conjunction with the University of Withywood - *The Bishopsworth Trail walk*. Meet at Bishopsworth Library at 7.00pm.

**Thursday 15 June:** in conjunction with the University of Withywood - *The Malago Greenway walk*. Meet at Bishopsworth Library at 7.00pm, finish at the new HQ of the National Federation of City Farms in Bedminster.

**Thursday 22 June:** in conjunction with the University of Withywood - *Maes Knoll and Norton Malreward walk*. Meet at Symes Avenue, Hartcliffe at 7.00pm.

**Monday 26 June:** *Garbage Raid* - meet at Bishopsworth Library at 7.00pm.

**Tuesday 27 June:** in conjunction with Hartcliffe Health and Environmental Action Group - night-time *Bat Walk* in Eastville Park with JIM JAYNE, one of Avon's foremost experts on bats. Minibus available from the Gatehouse Centre - telephone Sue Walker on 946 5285 (office hours) to book seats. If you would like to use your own transport, meet at the car park by the 'Merchants Arms' by 8.30pm.

## MANOR WOOD FUN DAY - SATURDAY 27 MAY

**P**LEASE COME ALONG during the afternoon and bring your friends and relations. There will be two guided walks led by Anton Bantock and Sue Walker, starting at 2.30pm and 4.00pm. Leaflets and questionnaires will be available detailing some of the historic and environmental features of the area and there will be stalls and displays by the Wildlife Trust, St Johns Ambulance, Hartcliffe Health and Environmental Action Group and - of course - M.V.C.G.

Other attractions we are working on are a living sculpture, plaster casts, water testing, stream dipping, farm animals and a recycling display. There is a children's colouring competition being organised through local schools, and squash and biscuits will be on sale during the afternoon.

Please do your bit to publicise this event and make it an afternoon to remember for all the family.

CHRIS LILLINGTON

### Malago Valley Conservation Group Committee Members

<b>Chairman</b>	André Coutanche	964 3106
<b>Secretary</b>	Chris Lillington	964 7578
<b>Treasurer</b>	John Taylor	964 2913
<b>Programme Co-ordinator</b>	Brenda Docherty	983 9901

#### Other Members

Freddie Alliston, Anton Bantock, Denis Bristow, Peter Hall, Lola Hardingham, Martin Powell, Ted Thomas, Sue Walker

#### Co-opted Members

Cllr Bernard Chalmers, Cllr Peter Crispin, Cllr Claire Warren (*All City and County Councillors for Bishopsworth, Bedminster and Hartcliffe wards have been invited to become co-opted Committee members*).

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**Newsletter** edited by André Coutanche, 14 Queens Road, Bishopsworth, Bristol, BS13 8LB; telephone 964 3106. **Letters, articles and suggestions from readers are welcome.** The opinions expressed in this *Newsletter* do not necessarily represent those of Malago Valley Conservation Group.