



MALAGO VALLEY CONSERVATION GROUP

NEWSLETTER

No. 118
Summer
2018

IT'S SUMMER – so that means our Summer Outing, which is always an enjoyable way to meet other M.V.C.G. members. Read all about it on page 7. Summer is also a good time for outdoor work, and a lot of this edition is about what's been happening in Manor Woods Valley Local Nature Reserve – again! Martin and the gang have been working hard and it shows.

They're not doing it all on their own, of course. Our regular helpers, GoodGym, have been again and will be coming back, and we've also had volunteers from the Avon Wildlife Trust and the Environment Agency. And the word gets around – the E.A. people so enjoyed the well-organised and fulfilling work that they told their colleagues and we had two e-mails from other parts of the E.A. asking to come and help.

Improving things on the ground is what M.V.C.G. has always been about, and there are direct ways of doing that and indirect ways. Often, the indirect ways mean trying to shape future plans and policies, which is the reason we spend time in meetings. It's also another aspect of our work in Manor Woods Valley and more widely. Martin's article starting on page 2 reports our application to achieve protected 'Local Green Space' status for the northern part of Manor Woods Valley which should have been included in the Local Nature Reserve in 2008 but wasn't, because it came under a different part of the City Council.

We're also working with the City Council on a Management Statement for the Orchard area of Manor Woods Valley so as to have an agreed framework for future work. Working with the City Council has always been a central principle for M.V.C.G., but it's much more difficult since the cuts reduced the staff in Bristol Parks and the time those staff have to work with us. But there are still people in Parks who are trying very hard to keep the show on the road; we appreciate that, and we want to help them as much as possible.

ANDRÉ COUTANCHE

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NEWS FROM MANOR WOODS VALLEY L.N.R.

THE EARLY SUMMER MONTHS in Manor Woods Valley have been all about 'learning'. Students from the University of Bristol completed their final report on water quality in the Malago. The executive summary is on the M.V.C.G. website at [www.mvccg.org.uk/Malago Water Quality Executive Summary.pdf](http://www.mvccg.org.uk/Malago%20Water%20Quality%20Executive%20Summary.pdf) (or click on the link on our front page).

Students from the University of the West of England (UWE) are currently carrying out tree surveys in Manor Woods, the results of which will feature in the next *Newsletter*.

Students of the University of the Third Age (U3A) enjoyed an ecological guided tour of Manor Woods Valley Local Nature Reserve led by Peter, professional ecologist and our newest committee member. Peter also led similar tours for members of the South Bristol Gardening Club and a U3A walking group.



Peter the tour guide with attentive members of the South Bristol Gardening Club

Students also featured among the many volunteers who have been helping to clear brambles, common hogweed and thistles in Manor Woods Orchard. We're grateful for their help and also for the hard work of other volunteers from the Environment Agency, Avon Wildlife Trust, Bristol GoodGym runners and our loyal and local supporters. The Bristol Urban Buzz Project are supporting the orchard work with advice and a donation grass and wildflower seeds. The Bristol Fish Project (based in Vale Lane) are also lending their support by providing access for our volunteers to their kitchen and toilet facilities.



GoodGym runners and local volunteers in the Orchard

University of Bristol students and Environment Agency staff volunteers celebrating the end of a hard day's work in the Orchard



The Orchard has been a great source of learning for us over the summer. Led by Peter, we have been grappling with the development of a medium- and long-term ecological and community plan for the Orchard. We are currently consulting on the draft with the Council's Parks Team. M.V.C.G. members will have an opportunity to share their views on the final draft in the coming months.

As well as direct work now and planning for future improvements, we haven't lost sight of our long-standing aim to get the same sort of permanent protection for the Orchard and the wider Old Quarries area that the main part of Manor Woods Valley enjoys as an officially designated Local Nature Reserve. The revision currently under way to the Bristol Local Plan introduces the new national classification of 'Local Green Space' – this would give similar

protection to that given to the Green Belt. We have asked for this designation to be applied to both the Orchard area and the Quarries area as a whole – that’s the land which is contiguous with the L.N.R. to the north and which extends west to Ilchester Crescent and the television transmitter mast.

The Forest of Avon Trust are continuing, over the summer months, with their very successful ‘Mindfulness’ courses in Manor Woods. Course members, from the Bristol Rehabilitation Service, learn woodland craft and cooking skills as well as identifying wild flowers, trees and birds.



Getting ready for the lunch break on the Mindfulness course

M.V.C.G. had a stand at the Zion Heritage Day event where we sold copies of *My Manor Woods Book* and recorded tales of childhood memories ‘down the Malago’.

Finally, on the learning theme, one young student’s learning was recognised for her contribution to the Orchard work by the award of a Blue Peter badge.



Eddie proudly shows off her well-deserved award

One of the aims of M.V.C.G. is to help raise awareness of conservation issues in the local community; we hope you agree that this report shows that we've taken this task to heart. Please visit our *Facebook* page (linked from www.mvccg.org.uk) for news of more events and workdays planned for the coming summer months.

And finally ... there's a bit of a tradition in the Summer edition of our *Newsletter* to have a pretty picture of the wonderful wild flower meadow in Manor Woods Valley. Here's one of this year's Bee Orchids – together with a very rare photo of the person who contributes so many super images to this *Newsletter* – thank you, Beryl!



MARTIN GRANT
on behalf of the Manor Woods Valley Working Group

PLANNING MATTERS

HERE'S A VERY QUICK UPDATE on some significant planning applications in BS13. Many of them were reported on at our A.G.M. in February.

- **131 Bridgwater Road:** the next stage in the process dealing with this planning shambles is an informal hearing on 11 July into the Appeal by the applicants against refusal of retrospective permission for what they illegally built.
- **Former Bristol Water depot near the Cross Hands:** the application to build 62 new dwellings was made in April and is currently being considered.

- **Waverley Gardens:** the application to double the size of the existing home by demolishing the former Redhouse School and extending onto that site is still pending.
- **Former Bishopsworth Police Station:** the application to build nine houses in three terraces of three has been revised and is still pending.
- **Hartcliffe Campus:** there is a major application for 350 houses on the site bounded by Hawkfield Road to the west, William Jessop Way to the south and Parkview Campus to the north and east. There are several issues here, including wildlife and habitat ones, and it has been discussed regularly at the 'Pride of Place' group who are leading on responding to the application.

ANDRÉ COUTANCHE

PRIVACY STATEMENT

Malago Valley Conservation Group collects and uses personal information and as such is a Data Controller under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The personal data that we hold allows us to communicate with our members, volunteers and colleagues and to administer the Group; for example, to send newsletters and e-mails and to collect subscriptions. The only data we hold is name, address (business address in the case of colleagues who are not members), phone number where it has been given to us by members or colleagues, membership status, and e-mail address. In the case of volunteers who are not members, we hold names and e-mail addresses only.

Apart from the quarterly newsletters, we contact members, volunteers and colleagues very infrequently and only regarding M.V.C.G. matters when they would reasonably expect us to do so, e.g. where there is some late information to communicate.

We do not hold data for any other purpose, nor do we hold data that is not necessary for us to fulfil our obligations. We use members', volunteers' and colleagues' data in ways which, we believe, they would reasonably expect on joining the Group or requesting to receive mailings. The legal basis for holding and processing this information is 'legitimate interest' or 'consent' under GDPR.

We will not share personal data with any other person or organisation unless legally obliged to do so. We will not keep personal data for longer than necessary under the legal basis for processing or as required to fulfil statutory obligations.

Members, volunteers or colleagues may access or request amendment or deletion of their personal information by e-mailing us on *info@mvcg.org.uk* or phoning us on (0117) 964 3106.

SUMMER OUTING

This year's Summer Outing will be to the **FEED BRISTOL** site of the Avon Wildlife Trust. FEED BRISTOL is AWT's community food growing project where the Trust champions conservation and ecology while supporting people's wellbeing. They run a native wildflower nursery from the site so you will be able to talk to an expert about wildlife gardening and how to use wildflowers in your garden design.



FEED BRISTOL is open for anyone to visit during the week, with special open days on the first Saturday of the month. We have arranged to visit them on **SATURDAY 4 AUGUST**. We will have a guided tour, which will take about an hour and will explore the site along accessible footpaths. It will highlight how AWT are using different wildlife gardening techniques to create a place where people and nature thrive in a productive setting. The tour will start at **11.00am**, so make sure you arrive in plenty of time before then. The site is open from 9.00am to 5.00pm. After the tour, refreshments will be provided in the café.

There is no charge for the visit, but you may like to bring money to buy some of their plants for your garden. M.V.C.G. will make a donation to thank AWT for the guided tour, and you may like to make your own donation to this good cause.

FEED BRISTOL is at 181 Frenchay Park Road, Stapleton, Bristol, BS16 1HB, on the junction with Stoke Lane. Please use the parking at Begbrook Social Club, which is 50 metres past the entrance on Frenchay Park Road on the right. If people have walking difficulties they are welcome to come into the main FEED BRISTOL car park area.



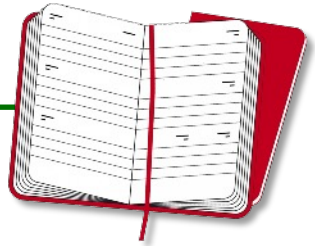
Avon

If you need or can offer a lift, please contact me on mariejo.coutanche@googlemail.com or (0117) 964 3106. No booking needed, but if you're planning to come, please let me know so we have an idea of numbers. Feel free to invite friends.

If you would like to know more about FEED BRISTOL, ring them on (0117) 964 7086 or visit their website at www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/feedbristol.

MARIE JO COUTANCHE

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



TWO SUMMERY EVENTS – our own Summer Outing and the Campus Fair – and a walk which marks weather we don't want to see repeated!

Wednesday 11 July: FLOODS WALK. It's 50 years since the great flood of 1968 that caused widespread disruption and a fatality in Bristol. To mark the event, and to raise awareness of flood risk today, there will be a walk along parts of the Malago and Pigeonhouse streams with representatives from the Environment Agency, Bristol City Council and M.V.C.G. They will talk at various points about the history, and also about current work and future prospects. MEET AT THE VALE LANE ENTRANCE TO MANOR WOODS VALLEY AT 1.00PM. The walk will end in Southville at about 5.00pm.

Saturday 4 August: Malago Valley Conservation Group SUMMER OUTING. For all the details, please see page 7 of this *Newsletter*. All are welcome, including non-members of M.V.C.G.

Saturday 4 August: CAMPUS FAIR at the Campus Pool, Bishopsworth. It's the same date as our Summer Outing, but you can still go to both, since the Fair runs from 12 noon until 3.00pm.

MALAGO VALLEY CONSERVATION GROUP

Chairman	André Coutanche	964 3106
Vice-Chairman	Mary Sykes	964 3712
Hon. Secretary	<i>[Vacancy]</i>	
Hon. Treasurer	Beryl Heaton	964 5780

Committee Members

Marie Jo Coutanche, Peter Crispin, Martin Grant, Peter Loy-Hancocks,
Lis Pibworth

Co-opted Committee Members

Richard Bevan (Highridge Forum), Catherine Withers (Bedminster Down & Uplands Society), Sue Walker (HHEAG), Ken Kennedy (Volunteering Matters), Cllrs Mark Brain, Richard Eddy, Paul Goggin, Helen Holland, Kevin Quartley
(All the City councillors for Bishopsworth ward and for Hartcliffe and Withywood ward are invited to become co-opted Committee members)

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Letters, articles and suggestions from readers are welcome.

The opinions in this *Newsletter* do not necessarily represent those of M.V.C.G.