



# THE LAST EVER

MALAGO VALLEY CONSERVATION GROUP

## NEWSLETTER

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**M**ALAGO VALLEY CONSERVATION GROUP will be formally wound up at two Special General Meetings in September and October. **WE NEED YOU** to be there if you possibly can.

The 'official' announcement of the meetings is over the page. We want to make them as painless as possible – and for the final one we're planning a party to celebrate what M.V.C.G. has achieved over nearly 25 years. We have a few thoughts about what to include in the celebration, but we'd love to hear from you if you have any ideas of what would be appropriate.

To wind up M.V.C.G. in good order, we need a quorum of at least ten members to be present. As our membership operates on households, everyone in a household is a member if they want to be, so one subscription can cover one, two or more members. We really do need that quorum of ten people to be at both meetings in order to proceed, so please come if you can.

For the first meeting, there will be modest refreshments, and we will have a display of slides of Manor Woods Valley over the years that we have been working there. You may be surprised at how things have changed – mostly for the better! – and you may well remember with pleasure some of the people you will see, several, unfortunately, no longer with us. The second meeting, after the formal business (very short!), will be a party with wine/soft drinks and cheese/other nibbles, as we have at our A.G.M.s. **PLEASE DO COME** to both meetings to celebrate the life and work of Malago Valley Conservation Group.

ANDRÉ COUTANCHE

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## NOTICE OF WINDING UP – AND PARTY

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**T**HE COMMITTEE OF MALAGO VALLEY CONSERVATION GROUP hereby gives notice to members that two Special General Meetings have been arranged, on **Thursday 19 September** and **Monday 7 October**, both at **7.00pm**, at **Zion Bristol**, Bishopsworth Road, Bedminster Down, BS13 7JW.

At those meetings, the following motion will be put:

*‘Malago Valley Conservation Group will be wound up on a date in the near future to be decided by the Committee consistent with the final discharge of the Group’s liabilities.’*

Under the Constitution of M.V.C.G., winding up is a two-stage process. Firstly, a duly-called General Meeting has to approve the motion to dissolve the Group by a two-thirds majority. Then, at a second General Meeting not less than 14 days later, the same motion has to be passed by a simple majority.

The second meeting will also be asked to approve the transfer of M.V.C.G.’s remaining funds to the Manor Woods Valley Group. Some of our money which was specifically for work in Manor Woods Valley Local Nature Reserve has already been transferred to our successor Group. That was the money which came to us under a planning agreement when Slow-worms were translocated to Manor Woods Valley from a development site elsewhere in south Bristol, and the money which the late John Taylor kindly donated for work in the Orchard area.

Some members with long memories may recall that M.V.C.G. ‘inherited’ the funds of the late, lamented Dundry Hill Group when they had to wind up for lack of volunteers for their committee. Although under no legal requirement, we accepted a moral obligation to look after the Malago Spring Artwork which D.H.G. had commissioned. We have already spent money in past years repairing the Spring, and we are planning one final donation before we wind up.

There is also the question of our archives, and we will pass on to M.W.V.G. those files which relate to Manor Woods Valley and deposit the remainder at Bristol Record Office.

After the formal business, we will hold a celebration to mark M.V.C.G.’s achievements, including wine and cheese/soft drinks and other nibbles. Although only members can vote, all members and friends of M.V.C.G. are invited to our final two meetings.

ANDRÉ COUTANCHE

## SUMMER OUTING TO MANOR WOODS VALLEY L.N.R.

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**M**.V.C.G.'s last ever Summer Outing was a good 'un! A lucky thirteen people gathered to be guided by Peter Loy-Hancocks the length and breadth of Manor Woods Valley Local Nature Reserve on a bright and sunny Sunday afternoon on 28 July.



Even 'old hands' saw and learned new things, partly because of all the work which has been done in recent months by the Manor Woods Valley Group, and partly because of the ecological insight which Peter brought to the walk and the historical research into Manor Woods Valley's development which he has been beavering away at. (Beavers! – there's a thought ...).

We were delighted to be joined by some non-M.V.C.G. members who have been friends and supporters for a very long time: Bob Giles, active in the 'Pride of Place' Group and concerned with, amongst other things, Crox Bottom; and Ben Barker, who had walked up from the lower reaches of the Malago at Southville, complete with butterfly net which he was using to see whether there were any Gatekeepers around in the woodland (there were).

Starting at the Bishopsworth Library entrance, we walked through the woodland (where we learned how a dead or moribund oak tree is at least as ecologically valuable as a flourishing one); came out at the Interceptor (a lot of the spoil from the big hole conveying Malago water down to the Cut was dumped on what is now the wonderful Summer Wildflower Meadow); on to the Orchard to see the incredible amount of clearance work and new tree planting which various groups of volunteers have been doing, and to learn about the thriving population of Slow-worms; and then to the Wildflower Meadow itself (the Bee orchids which have been delighting us for years are being joined by more orchid species).



Into ‘Allotment Wood’, the area below the Valley Road entrance, previously impenetrable and now a valuable natural and social resource, where, as in the main woodland, we discovered ‘ghost hedges’, evidence of pre-war and earlier land uses.

On our way back to the starting point we looked at what used to be the Pond and reflected on changing habitats, their maintenance and the costs involved, financial and environmental. The last stop was the recently created Valley Heights Meadow (*left*), where what was there ‘naturally’ has been supplemented by additional native wild flowers.

A huge THANK YOU to Peter for a highly enjoyable and inspiring afternoon. We hope many more people will come to enjoy Manor Woods Valley in the years to come – and that quite a few of them will take an active part in maintaining and improving it through Manor Woods Valley Group.

MARIE JO AND ANDRÉ COUTANCHE

## MALAGO VALLEY CONSERVATION GROUP

<b>Chairman</b>	André Coutanche	964 3106
<b>Vice-Chairman</b>	Mary Sykes	964 3712
<b>Hon. Secretary</b>	<i>[Vacancy]</i>	
<b>Hon. Treasurer</b>	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), Cllrs Mark Brain, Richard Eddy, Paul Goggin, Helen Holland, Kevin Quartley

*(All the City councillors for Bishopsworth ward and for Hartcliffe and Witherwood ward are invited to become co-opted Committee members)*

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