



MALAGO VALLEY CONSERVATION GROUP

NEWSLETTER

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THE PROPOSALS FOR THE BISHOPSWORTH AND MALAGO CONSERVATION AREA have taken an important step forward. We have just received from the City Council the officers' ideas for the boundaries of the conservation area.

The suggestion is that only the historic fabric of Bishopsworth village should be included, with Highridge Common as a separate part of the designation. The proposed area is substantially smaller than that put forward in our original paper and includes the 1920s extension of the village but excludes later development. Open space which is not historic landscape is also excluded. The extreme southern part of Manor Woods is in, but everything else, including the pond, is out. While Highridge Common and the surrounding houses are in, the proposals leave out Kings Head Park, Highridge playing field and the playing fields of Bedminster Down, Highridge Infant and Bishopsworth Junior schools. The theory is that these open spaces are protected by the Bristol Local Plan.

The M.V.C.G. Committee has not yet discussed these proposals. It would be very helpful to know what members thought before we reply to the Council. If you would like more details, or would like to see the map showing the revised boundary, please contact me - or come along to the next meeting on Thursday 20 November where it will be available.

We suggested last time keeping an eye open for further announcements about the proposed fishing lake in Manor Woods. We have now heard that the sponsors, Allied-Domecq, have agreed to a Phase I which will involve improving water quality in the Malago and improving access to the existing pond. Phase II *could* include a new fishing lake.

ANDRÉ COUTANCHE

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NOMINATIONS NEEDED

IT MAY SEEM DIFFICULT to look beyond Christmas at present, but this is the last *Newsletter* of 1997 and the next one, in January 1998, will contain the official notice of the Group's A.G.M. to be held in February.

Please would you think about two things which will be dealt with at the A.G.M. The first, as we reported last time, is the **Environmental Awards** which we will be making. This will be an annual recognition of anything which has improved the public face of our part of Bristol - it could be a good new building, a renovation or re-use of an existing building, landscaping or planting. Keep your eyes open for anything completed in 1997 which you think should be nominated, and give us a ring.

The second type of nomination we want is more personal. As with all voluntary groups, we always need more people to get involved and help to do things. Would you like to serve on the **M.V.C.G. committee?** (It's good fun!). Please let any current committee member have any ideas for nominations.

ANDRÉ COUTANCHE

COFFING UP

THE COFFEE AFTERNOON AND EVENING held on 7 November was a great success. We were very pleased with the total of £64.43 raised towards the funds of the Group from the lucky dip, sale of produce, plants, bric-a-brac and coffee (thanks to André for producing his delicious shortbread once again).



There was a very attractive display of goods from the **Wildlife Trust** shop which proved very popular, as is evident from the splendid sum of £242.54 that was taken for that charity.

Christmas cards and notelets in aid of the sponsorship fund of the **University of Withywood** were also available and supplies of these can still be obtained from Anton (964 1667) or from Marie Jo (964 3106).

It is very encouraging to see so many loyal supporters on these occasions and we thank our helpers and all those who contributed so generously towards the success of the day.

LOLA HARDINGHAM

HARTCLIFFE COMMUNITY CAMPUS

HARTCLIFFE COMMUNITY CAMPUS is an imaginative project to develop for community use the green space bounded by Teyfant School, the Hartcliffe campus of the City of Bristol College (formerly South Bristol College), Hawkfield Business Park, the Somerfield (Gateway) Headquarters and stretching east towards Longway Avenue.

The site as it currently stands is a vast green wasteland where the main activity is formal sport and dog-walking. Hartcliffe Community Campus has been set up to draw up a vision for the site centred around sustainable development and life-long learning. The site will become a centre for environmental education, sport, relaxation, fun and study. The overall aim is to encourage the development of activities and uses which are available to all to enjoy, where different age groups can mix and where learning can be associated with fun.

There has been an extensive consultation process for the whole site. There was a project week at Teyfant where children and staff drew up their own plans and ideas for the site and for a community garden and park area. There have also been exhibitions and open days for local people.

The project is based at Teyfant Community School and is co-ordinated by Tessa Coombes. There is a Working Group of local residents and groups (including M.V.C.G.) and also an Environment Group which includes ourselves, C.S.V., Hartcliffe Community Park Farm, H.H.E.A.G. and the Dundry Hill Group. The immediate focus for this group is an application for a 'Millennium Green' grant which will develop the part of the site near the school and the road as a community park. There are also groups concerned with Sport and with Arts.

The group meetings are open to all, so if anyone has ideas for any part of the site or would like to get involved, please contact Tessa Coombes or Tania Ford on 964 4011.



THE SUSTAINABLE CITY

FOOD. We all need food to sustain our bodies, to keep us fit and to give us energy. There can be nothing so mouthwatering as good quality, locally produced fresh food - but there are fewer people growing their own food or knowing anything about what their food contains. There are also fewer people taking advantage of nature's rich harvest of food, available free for the picking each year, such as blackberries, damsons, hazel nuts and mushrooms.

With the expansion of the supermarket empires and the resulting closure of the local shops, food has to travel ever greater distances, and be stored for longer, before the customer can obtain it off the shelf.

Young people need to be encouraged and made aware of how and where food is produced, and of the benefits of enjoying and eating fresh food, whilst understanding its nutritional value.

Food can be produced in gardens, allotments, community gardens, city farms and local smallholdings. Improvements to the environment can be achieved by growing and distributing food locally, causing the food to travel less and to need reduced amounts of packaging and chemicals. The community and economy also benefit by the resources remaining locally in the smaller businesses.

Bristol City Council, together with community and business groups, has set up a new **Local Food Links** network in the Bristol and Bath area which is open to anyone interested in supporting the aims.

Developments and plans so far include:

- Assessment of under-used allotments and how school grounds and public areas can be promoted by community organisations for growing food.
- Setting up events like Food Fairs and establishing food co-ops to promote local produce and educate people on the importance of fresh food and healthy eating. (Hartcliffe Health and Environment Action Group were one of the first in Bristol to follow this path).

For further information, contact the Sustainable City Team at Bristol City Council, telephone (0117) 922 4484. Training sessions and seminars can be arranged on request.

JOHN TAYLOR

Taster

Local Food Links Fair

Ideas & Information Event



*For community and voluntary groups who are interested in
or are involved in local food initiatives.*

- **Get and give information, ideas and practical advice.**
- **Make contacts.**
- **Swap, give tasters or sell small items.**
- **Plan projects together on:-**

*Bulk Buying & Food Coops
Community Cafes
Community Food Growing Projects
Allotments for community use
Community Gardens
Local Food Buying Guide
Local Food Markets
Community Food Enterprises
Horticultural Therapy*

*Gardening Clubs
Cooking & Using Food
Food & Health
Food Growing In Schools
Food & LETS
Local Food Links Promotion & Coordination
City Farms
Fair Trade of Food Grown Overseas*

Thursday 20th November 9.30am to 1pm

The Southville Centre

Beauley Road, Southville

- Everyone is welcome to come from any sort of group or interest or as an individual.
- £20 expenses is offered to groups who run an information stall.
- Entrance is **FREE**.
- The Southville Centre's Oasis Cafe will be open to buy lunch after the meeting. (Oasis is itself a community cafe.)

***If you would like to come or have an information stall at TASTER
please complete and return the booking form attached or phone us on 922 4484 / 4476.***

TASTER is organised by

Windmill Hill City Farm, Hartcliffe Health & Environmental Action Group, Lawrence Weston Community Farm,
VOSCOUR (Voluntary Organisations Standing Conference on Urban Regeneration),
The Sustainable City Team of Bristol City Council on behalf of the Local Food Links Network.

UP THE GARDEN PATH

THE MEETING ON 21 OCTOBER proved to be fascinating and delightful, as Margaret Hayman took us 'up the path' of her garden in Bishopston. She has made it a haven for insects and other wildlife as nature has taken over what was once order and neatness and a productive vegetable garden.

As we moved up the path we were entranced by beautiful slides of plants, some of them we consider to be weeds; but as Margaret reminded us, a weed is just a plant which is growing in the wrong place. Some daisies in the lawn, which many of us strive to eradicate, become a thing of beauty as we were shown close-ups of the flowers in isolation. Dandelions, too, were a joy to behold.

On the plants were insects, and we watched in amazement as they became many times larger than life on the screen in front of us. There were several species of ladybirds, some of them photographed in the hot summer of 1976. During that year they devoured aphids they would normally have ignored as the aphids' sticky covering was unpalatable. There were so many ladybirds then that it became a matter of survival.

It was amazing to discover how beautiful were the flowers of the horse chestnut tree. It is easy to overlook them until one sees them in such close detail. There were primroses in profusion and we were amused to catch sight of them happily growing in the middle of the rhubarb.

When we reached the cabbage patch we became closely acquainted with caterpillars as they pupated. We watched in amazement at the high definition which had been achieved by such skilful photography. It looked so natural, although Margaret admitted that much of her work is done under 'studio' conditions - such as her kitchen table! It was not possible to detect this, however, as the surroundings were so realistic.

The marvellous slides coupled with an amusing and knowledgeable commentary made it an evening to remember. Margaret told us that she has other talks in her repertoire and I am sure the Group would welcome a return visit in the future.

BERYL HEATON

PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS AND EVENTS

THE programme of autumn talks continues at St Peter's Rooms (side of St Peter's Church, Bishopsworth), starting at 7.30pm. As ever, visitors are very welcome and will be asked to pay 50p towards the cost of room hire.

Thursday 20 November: PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE FROM OUR USUAL TUESDAY - this is to avoid clashing with the Bishopsworth Quiz. A double bill: the speaker on the *Malago Valley Credit Union* will now be Gabby from the Withywood Church Centre, and SUE WALKER will speak on *Local Agenda 21*, a topic which needs to be better understood and acted upon.

Monday 24 November: *Garbage Raid*. Meet at 3.30pm at the 'Elm Tree'. NEW RAIDERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME and may get a cup of tea after the event.

Tuesday 16 December: A CREEPY-CRAWLY CHRISTMAS PARTY. Not at all as horrible as it might sound; the theme is **insects**. A fun evening for all ages, including the BEETLE game and insect anagrams. As before, we will have an AMERICAN SUPPER, so please bring along a contribution to the feast.

Monday 5 January: *Garbage Raid*. Meet at 3.30pm at Bishopsworth Library. This date is instead of the last Monday in December.

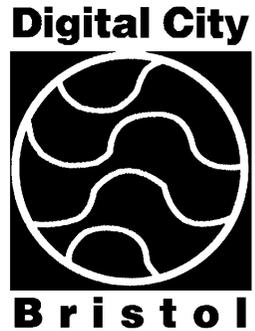
Tuesday 20 January: We start 1998 aiming high - with our eyes on the stars. JOHN MEACHAM of the Bristol Astronomical Society is our speaker, talking about a form of pollution we don't often think about - *Light Pollution*.

Monday 26 January: *Garbage Raid*. Back to the regular 'last Monday' routine, and a return to Symes Avenue. Meet at the top of Symes at 3.30pm.

Tuesday 17 February: The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. More details in the January *Newsletter*, but we are pleased to announce that our guest speaker will be Cllr HELEN HOLLAND, Chair of the City Planning Committee.

GETTING NETTED?

DIGITAL CITY BRISTOL was launched on the Internet last March, and this partnership between the City Council, Hewlett-Packard and the University of the West of England is steadily developing. The idea was always to involve as many organisations, businesses and individuals as possible, and voluntary groups like M.V.C.G. who are members of VOSCUR have recently been invited to put up information which will appear on Digital City Bristol.



Although none of the M.V.C.G. committee currently have access to the Internet, we welcome the offer to take advantage of what will be an increasingly important way of communicating our ideas and keeping in touch with like-minded people and organisations.

Anyone who is on line can access Digital City Bristol on <http://www.bristol.digitalcity.org>

Malago Valley Conservation Group Committee Members

Chairman	André Coutanche	964 3106
Acting Vice-Chairman	Lola Hardingham	964 1116
Treasurer	John Taylor	964 2913

Other Members

Anton Bantock, Brenda Docherty, Richard Eddy, Beryl Heaton, Chris Lillington (*Committee Secretary*), Mary Sykes.

Co-opted Members

Peter Hall, Sue Walker, Cllr Bernard Chalmers, Cllr Terry Cleverley, Cllr Peter Crispin, Cllr Paul Walker (*All the City and County of Bristol councillors for Bedminster, Bishopsworth, Hartcliffe and Whitchurch Park wards have been invited to become co-opted Committee members*).

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.