



MALAGO VALLEY CONSERVATION GROUP

NEWSLETTER

No. 67
January
2006

THIS FIRST *Newsletter* of the new year contains some predictable articles - A.G.M. notice, annual accounts, request for your renewed subscription(!) - and some 'new' news.

The first news item is a sad one: Cllr Ron Hodges died at Christmas. His funeral on 6 January at the Lord Mayor's Chapel was literally packed to overflowing and reminded us how involved he had been in public life in Bristol. We didn't always agree on all points, but he always had time for M.V.C.G. and was a regular - and entertaining! - attender of our committee meetings. Our sympathies go out to Shirley and the rest of the family. He will be replaced as a councillor for Bishopsworth ward at the local elections in May.

The regular A.G.M. notice is on page 2, and, as always, we invite anyone interested in joining the committee to contact me or any other committee member for an informal chat. New blood is welcome, especially as I have said that I will not carry on as Chairman for much longer! However, the Chairman's job is not that onerous of itself; much of what I (and the other office holders) do is separate from the office itself and we will go on doing it anyway. So please get in touch if you would like to know more.

Here's a new word for the new year: 'enmainment'. It means the designation of a watercourse as a 'main river' which would then come under the Environment Agency instead of the local authority for flood defence purposes. Talks are taking place to 'enmain' the Malago, which could have implications for removing the silt in the pond in Manor Woods Valley.

Sir John Harman, Chairman of the Environment Agency, visited Bristol on 26 January, and Kathy Derrick and I met him and some of his local staff in Manor Woods Valley to tell him about 'Booted Up Bristol'. Useful contacts were made, and he left with a copy of *My Manor Woods Book*.

ANDRÉ COUTANCHE

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND BIRTHDAY PARTY

THE ELEVENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of Malago Valley Conservation Group will be held on Tuesday 21 February at St Peter's Rooms, Church Road, Bishopsworth, starting at 7.30pm. The Officers and Committee members retire each year but are eligible for re-election. The names of the current Officers and Committee members appear on the back page.

According to the M.V.C.G. constitution, nominations for either Officers or Committee members should be made in writing at least 14 days before the A.G.M. They must be supported by a seconder and the consent of the nominee must first have been obtained. Nominations can be made to the Hon. Secretary, Lis Pibworth, at 31 Vicarage Road, Bishopsworth, BS13 8ER or to the Chairman, André Coutanche, at 14 Queens Road, Bishopsworth, BS13 8LB (phone numbers and e-mail addresses on back page).

However, anyone thinking of volunteering to join the Committee should not be put off by these formal requirements. If you think you may be interested, please contact any existing Committee member for an informal chat. New members are always welcome!

The formal A.G.M. business will include a report-back to members on the year's events, and this will be followed by our Guest Speaker, who this year is PETER MILNER, a consultant employed by Bristol City Council to make recommendations on improvements and interpretation at Crox Bottom. Peter will show us what he is proposing and update us on what may happen.



As usual, we will finish with wine/orange juice and cheese/other nibbles to celebrate our birthday. All members and friends of M.V.C.G. are invited to come to our birthday party.

LIS PIBWORTH
Hon. Secretary

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR 2005

HERE ARE THE ACCOUNTS which will be presented to the A.G.M. on 21 February. If you have any queries or comments on the accounts and cannot be at the A.G.M., please phone me on 964 5780 or e-mail me at *berylm.heaton@btopenworld.com*.

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Membership	286.00	Postage & Stationery	31.00
Function Income	228.07	Refreshments at A.G.M.	16.57
Other Income	682.50	Hall Hire	140.00
		Printing	105.00
		Speakers fees/donations/expenses	314.45
		Christmas Meeting	20.98
		Bulbs and Compost	136.20
		DHG SGM	89.88
		Insurance	110.00
Total	1196.57	Total	964.08

	£
Excess of income over expenditure	232.49
Brought forward from 2004	961.70
Balance carried forward to 2005	1194.19

Made up of: Cash in hand	2.63
Bank account	1191.56

Detail of function income	£	Detail of Other Income	£
Christmas at Home	153.57	Donations	242.00
Christmas Party Raffle	20.00	Sale of aluminium cans	87.50
Refreshments	11.00	<i>My Manor Woods Book sales</i>	55.00
Sale of Plants	<u>43.50</u>	<i>Walks on Dundry Hill book sales</i>	<u>298.00</u>
	<u>228.07</u>		<u>682.50</u>

BERYL HEATON
Hon. Treasurer

MORE BULBS!

As we reported last time, the Council had some 'spare' daffodil bulbs which they didn't have the labour to plant, so we volunteered to plant some along Highridge Road between the Hornbeam trees. On 8 December, the efficient M.V.C.G. bulb planting machinery swung into operation ...



Left: the stamping squad. Note that one of the stampers carries a spade and is also a digger - multi-tasking, we are.

Below: the chief archaeologist holds an old penny which emerged, and has to endure lengthy explanations from the old folk about £.s.d.



PLANNING MATTERS

ANOTHER QUICK CANTER around the Planning Register for BS13. If you would like to keep up to date for yourself, you can consult the Weekly Lists of planning applications and decisions on the City Council website at www.bristol-city.gov.uk (click on 'Environment and Planning', then 'Planning' and follow the links. (Unfortunately, the City Council's website is often slow and unreliable). A fairly recent and very welcome innovation is the UK Planning website at www.ukplanning.com. Click on 'Select another Council', then 'England', then 'Bristol City Council', then 'Search Applications'. You can then look at, for instance, all applications in the BS13 area.

Firstly, we are pleased (though not surprised) that the application we reported in the last *Newsletter* for a *further* two bungalows at the Old Vicarage, Bishopsworth, has been refused. We and others will be keeping up the pressure to ensure that the developers carry out their obligations to plant the grounds as agreed.

The scheme for six new houses and garages on land adjacent to 131 Bridgwater Road went to the South & East Development Control Committee on 14 December. This is actually an extension to Kings Walk, and we had no objections to the principle, but were concerned that the existing hedge - which forms both the City and the Green Belt boundary - was protected. We also pointed out the access problems for construction traffic because of the overspill parking from 'The Pavilions'. These concerns were addressed by the Committee and permission was given.

We are making our comments on the Urban Splash application for the former Wills Office Block in Crox Bottom which we described last time. The general principle is very much to be welcomed, and our only concerns relate to public access to the Lake. We hope the scheme goes ahead and has a positive effect widely throughout the area.

ANDRÉ COUTANCHE

- *And on the subject of Crox Bottom ...* You may have seen the exhibition in Bishopsworth Library. This is one of the regular series put on by the Malago Society which are always worth a look. On this occasion, we have collaborated to cover both the history and the possible future for Crox Bottom. Our thanks to the Malago Society!

CHRISTMAS CAPERS

Another enjoyable and sociable Christmas Party was held on 6 December. Thanks and congratulations to the organisers, especially Lola, seen in the first picture dispatching Anna with the Wassail bowl.



Above: A brief moment sitting down during another silly game (Photos by Heaton Holographics)

WATERY WALKS

AFTER three years of Malago Treks, Bristol Living Rivers is planning a very ambitious programme of walks in 2006 along all the waterways of Bristol. We hope to have more information in the next *Newsletter*, but get these dates into your diaries now!



Sunday 9 April: New Cut Circuit

Sunday 14 May: Malago Trek

Sunday 4 June: Trym Trek

Sunday 25 June OR Sunday 30 July: Brislington Brook walk

Sunday 10 June: Severn Estuary Walk

Sunday 9 July: Colliters Brook Walk

Sunday 20 August: Frome Walk



PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS AND EVENTS

IN THE COLD AND DAMP of winter, we can look ahead not just to our evening meetings at 7.30pm at St Peter's Rooms (by the side of St Peter's Church, Bishopsworth, opposite the Swimming Pool), but also to the coming of spring with some outdoor events to get into your diary now. The **M** symbol shows our own events, to which everyone is welcome, member or not.

M Tuesday 21 February: Our *A.G.M. and Birthday Party*. Following the formal business, PETER MILNER will tell us what is proposed for Crox Bottom. See also page 2.

M Monday 27 February: *Garbage Raid* in Wilmott Park, meeting at the junction of Kilmersdon Road and Moxham Drive at 3.45pm.

Thursday 16 March: *Hartcliffe & Withywood Community Partnership closes down. What is the future for us?* by CHERYL O'CONNOR at the University of Withywood, 131 Queens Road, at 7.30pm.

M Tuesday 21 March: Dr REBECCA HEATON (better known to us as Beryl and Danny's daughter, Becky) makes a welcome return to talk to us about *Renewable Energy*.

Thursday 6 April: *The new Withywood Church and Community Centre - what it means to us* by RACHEL SCHOFIELD at the University of Withywood, 131 Queens Road, at 7.30pm.

M Tuesday 18 April: JOHN TULLEY will give us an illustrated talk about *Birds and birdsong*, as a preparation for ...

M Saturday 22 April: *A Dawn Chorus Walk* in Manor Woods Valley, guided by JOHN TULLEY. Meet at 7.00am (not dawn, really!) at the entrance to Manor Woods behind Bishopsworth Library.

Thursday 11 May: Evening walk in Badock's Wood guided by members of the Friends of Badock's Wood. More details in the next *Newsletter*.

Sunday 14 May: *Malago Trek*, starting at 10.00am at ASDA car park. More information in the next *Newsletter*, and see also the opposite page for details of this and other river walks.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

NOW IS THE TIME to renew your membership if you haven't already done so (some people have - thank you!). Membership of Malago Valley Conservation Group runs on a calendar year basis, so please fill in the form enclosed with this *Newsletter* and return it, along with your subscription, to either Beryl Heaton at 3 Kings Walk or André Coutanche at 14 Queens Road. If there *isn't* a membership form enclosed, it's either because you're already paid up for next year (if you joined in the last four months) or you are receiving a complementary copy of the *Newsletter*.

We hope you feel that just £4.00 per household is good value, and we always welcome ideas for improving what we do. Please let us have any ideas for new things for the Group to do, or ways to do them better.

Malago Valley Conservation Group

Chairman	André Coutanche	964 3106
Vice-Chairman	Lola Hardingham	964 1116
Hon. Secretary	Lis Pibworth	939 0698
Hon. Treasurer	Beryl Heaton	964 5780

Committee Members

Anton Bantock, Don Bartlett, Brenda Docherty, Mavis Palmer

Co-opted Committee Members

Tania Case, Valerie Gay, Paul Mizen, Sue Walker, CSV Environment, Cllrs Mark Brain, Peter Crispin, Richard Eddy, Royston Griffey, Ron Hodges, Helen Holland, Colin Smith, Mary Sykes (*All the City councillors for Bishopsworth, Hartcliffe and Whitchurch Park wards are invited to become co-opted Committee members.*)

Newsletter edited by André Coutanche, 14 Queens Road, Bishopsworth, Bristol, BS13 8LB; telephone 964 3106; e-mail andrec@mvcg.org.uk; website www.mvcg.org.uk.

Letters, articles and suggestions from readers are welcome.

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