



MALAGO VALLEY CONSERVATION GROUP

NEWSLETTER

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2006

THE START of the ‘winter’ season is bringing a few changes. We welcome three new co-opted members to the M.V.C.G. Committee - Diana Porter, Paul Mizen and Paul Harvey-Worsley (Paul Mizen was previously the representative of the Bedminster Down and Uplands Society and that role is now taken by their Chair, Diana Porter). And I’ll remind you again that I won’t be standing for the Chairman’s post at our next A.G.M. in February, so we would like even more new talent to come forward!

It’s a bit early for a review of the past year, but we have been particularly busy lately, more than ever in Manor Woods Valley. Because of the new level of practical work we are doing, with its demands on the time of a limited pool of volunteers, we are reducing some other commitments. We will no longer schedule monthly garbage raids, with dates advertised in the *Newsletter*, but that doesn’t mean that the trolley will be redundant - we will do ‘ad hoc’ clean-ups when we discover a ‘grot spot’. If you would like to be one of the garbage irregulars, please ring me on 964 3106 and we’ll let you know when a raid is planned.

The other major change is that this *Newsletter* will now be published quarterly instead of every other month. It’s quite good fun to produce but it can be a bit of a chore, depending on how many people contribute. If more people would like to write articles for the *Newsletter*, or get involved in helping to produce it, please let me know, and perhaps we will be able to increase its frequency of publication again. But this is a good opportunity to say a big *THANK YOU* to the people who help to distribute it and get it through your letterbox. Of the 120 or so newsletters we produce, only 20 incur postage costs (and they’re in recycled envelopes!)

ANDRÉ COUTANCHE

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PLANNING MATTERS

THE BIG NEWS in the last *Newsletter* was the application by Urban Splash to develop the former Wills Office Block in Crox Bottom. This was passed by the South & East Development Control Committee, with the same comments expressed that we had made about public access to the lake. We all want to see this exciting project succeed, and discussions are continuing about the detailed arrangements for access.

The application for a stone-crushing plant on part of the quarries area of Manor Woods Valley, which I reported in the last *Newsletter*, hasn't moved on very much. The further information which was requested has apparently not yet been enough to satisfy all the relevant departments, so we are still some way from a decision. We continue to oppose this proposal because of its effect on the existing Site of Nature Conservation Interest and because it is adjacent to the proposed Local Nature Reserve - which is now, we are informed, a step closer to legal designation.

We also reported that we were querying the status of the sheds and shipping containers which make up the club house of Highridge United Football Club on Highridge Playing Fields. Planning Enforcement have investigated and have told us that there is no action they can take. Some of the 'buildings' have planning permission, and the remainder have been in place longer than the five years necessary to qualify as 'established use'. Unfortunately, there is still no sign at all that the development of the Playing Fields will ever happen.

It has seemed in the past as though the saga of the development at the Old Vicarage, Bishopsworth, would never end. There was important good news when the Planning Inspector rejected the developers' greedy application for a further two bungalows in the grounds. We have now written to the City Council to encourage them to take the necessary steps to oblige the owners to carry out the landscaping work which they have been postponing on the grounds that there would be further building.

Finally, you may have noticed that the old toilet block next to the 'Elm Tree' pub has been demolished. We have no objection in principle, but we were surprised - to put it mildly - that there was no planning application to demolish in the conservation area. An application would have allowed us to get involved

in the sort of constructive talks we have asked for on what should be done with the land - we would like further tree and bulb planting, and some tidying up work on the adjacent hedge. The toilet block came under the Neighbourhood & Housing Services Department of the City Council, which makes the absence of a planning application even more disturbing. There is a size below which a structure can be demolished without permission, but it's difficult now to check whether this applied! The block could just have been below this size (115 cubic metres), but we doubt it. We have asked for an investigation.

ANDRÉ COUTANCHE

BOOTED UP BRISTOL

For its third year in Manor Woods Valley, Booted up Bristol ran for longer than ever - three weeks of four days. We supplied a volunteer helper for nearly every day, and, as in previous years, a good time was had by all. It was specially appropriate that very local schools took part this time, including Cheddar Grove, Headley Park and Bishopsworth Junior.



Logging on

Logging on

Photos by Beryl Heaton (this page), Angela James (next page).

MANOR WOODS VALLEY

THE MANOR WOODS VALLEY GROUP has decided to carry on improving the entrance behind Bishopsworth Library. We will paint more of the railings which border the path down into the Valley, and afterwards we will do some planting behind the railings. *Rosa rugosa* has been chosen.

Please see the dates of our working parties in the Programme on page 7 and come and join us! As before, we are very grateful to the Crossways Tabernacle for their permission and co-operation.

MARIE JO COUTANCHE

AMPHIBIOUS GARBAGE RAID

Our annual meander along the Malago netted a good haul on 17 September. We were particularly pleased to get out the pile of wiring which had (we are told) been removed from a skip by silly people and dumped in the stream.





The rubbish which we stacked by the litter bin for removal by the Council's contractors was still there the next day and the day after. Several heated e-mails and phone calls eventually did the trick the following day. We hope this breakdown in the system was a one-off.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING ...

WE won't be having our 'Christmas at Home' event this year. Instead, we intend to have a sale in the spring. However, we will run a stall at our Christmas Party of Christmas goodies and small Christmas presents. Contributions will be welcome - please bring them along on the evening.

We will also have our usual American Supper after the fun and games, so please bring something for the table if you can. The Christmas Party is on Tuesday 19 December, and starts a quarter of an hour later than usual, at 7.45pm.

IMPORTANT NEWS ABOUT WASTE COLLECTION

HANNAH GRINTER of the Neighbourhood & Housing Services Department of Bristol City Council has provided this note on the new waste collection arrangements:

Bristol City Council has introduced new kitchen, cardboard and garden waste collection services in your area.

You should have received a brown 5-litre kitchen caddy that can be used to put food waste in. Food that can be put in this caddy includes:

- eggs, fish, meat, bones and dairy products
- vegetables, tea bags, salad and fruit
- bread, cereal, pasta and rice.

Householders should also have received a lockable, brown food waste bin to be kept outside their home into which they can put the food waste from their kitchen caddy. Food can be wrapped in newspaper and put in this bin. *No plastic should be put in this bin.*

Remember there is the option of buying a green bin for garden waste such as grass and cuttings. For just £21, you can buy a garden waste wheelie bin and for 55p a week (£29 a year) it will be emptied on collection day. There are also compost bins available at £14 plus £3 delivery. Subsidies are available on both the green bins and compost bins.

Collections will be every week for the black box (recycling); the brown kitchen waste bin; cardboard folded and placed by kitchen bin; and the green garden waste bin (optional). The black wheelie bin for rubbish will be collected every other week.

If you have any questions, please contact Bristol City Council on 922 3838 or visit our website at www.bristol-city.gov.uk/recycling. Don't forget you can ask for a Waste Doctor to visit and give you advice on the new services. Please call us on the above number.

HANNAH GRINTER

PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS AND EVENTS

ONE OR TWO changes to our previous 'annual round': we're not having 'Christmas at Home' this year - see page 5 - and we have no more *scheduled* garbage raids - see page 1. And the wonderful Bishopsworth Quiz in November will replace our normal meeting at St Peter's Rooms which would otherwise be difficult to re-arrange. The **M** symbol indicates our own events, and we are always happy to publicise other activities which would interest our members.

M Saturday 14 October: PROVISIONAL date for our annual planting of daffodil bulbs. We shall plant on the grass area below Bishopsworth Police Station, but please phone 964 3106 to confirm it will be on this date.

M Tuesday 17 October: For our first 'winter' meeting at 7.30pm at St Peter's Rooms (by the side of St Peter's Church, Church Road, Bishopsworth), GEMMA TEMPLAR from 'Energy in Action' at the CREATE Centre will talk about *Energy Efficiency in the Home*.

M Wednesday 18 October: The final bit of RAILING PAINTING at the entrance behind Bishopsworth Library - see page 4. If we have enough volunteers we shall start clearing the ground for planting. Meet at 10.00am in sturdy clothes and bring a fork or spade if you can. Gloves provided.

M Wednesday 15 November: PROVISIONAL date for soil preparation and planting behind the railings. Before coming, ring Angela (935 9003) or Marie Jo (964 3106) to check whether there has been any change of plan!

Tuesday 21 November: The BISHOPSWORTH QUIZ at the Royal British Legion, Bishopsworth. M.V.C.G. will be entering a team or two as usual, and all members are welcome to come along to support them and enjoy the fun. If you would like to take part, or if you would like to attend, please phone 964 3106 so that we can give the Legion a list of names.

M Wednesday 29 November: PLANTING SESSION behind the railings at the entrance to Manor Woods Valley. Meet at 10.00am in suitable clothes - bring a spade or trowel if you can. Coffee or tea afterwards to celebrate!

M Tuesday 19 December: Our daft and delightful CHRISTMAS PARTY. PLEASE NOTE THE LATER STARTING TIME OF 7.45pm. See page 5 and please bring a contribution to the American Supper if you can.

M Tuesday 16 January: Our first meeting of 2007 will hear ROGER SYMES talking about *Wildlife Indoors*. 7.30pm at St Peter's Rooms.

WILD BS13

ONE EVENING the other week I let the dog out in the rain and shone my torch onto the patio. There was my favourite FROG, 'Patio Patrol', but he appeared to be in distress. His little froggy fingers were agitatedly wiping his face over and over again. At last I worked it out - he was trying to keep hold of a worm and pull it out from between two paving stones. He managed it! I do hope he went on to slugs for his main course!

ANGELA JAMES

On 5 October, we saw a BAT flying around the back garden, as if it was still summer. Has anyone any later sightings? And on two of the occasions I helped with 'Booted up Bristol' (see page 3), either I or someone else saw KINGFISHERS, and there was a BUZZARD in the distance over Ashton.

ANDRÉ COUTANCHE

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, Mavis Palmer

Co-opted Committee Members

Valerie Gay, Paul Harvey-Worsley, Paul Mizen, Diana Porter, Sue Walker, CSV Environment, Cllrs Mark Brain, Peter Crispin, Richard Eddy, Royston Griffey, Helen Holland, Tim Kent, Kevin Quartley, Mary Sykes (*All the City councillors for Bishopsworth, Hartcliffe and Whitchurch Park wards 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.