



# MALAGO VALLEY CONSERVATION GROUP

# **NEWSLETTER**

No. 85  
Spring  
2010

**T**HIS IS THE EDITION of the *Newsletter* each year which could be seen as a touch introspective. We have to talk about our own ‘in-house’ business, following on from the Annual General Meeting and the elections of a ‘new’ Committee.

I’m delighted to say that there really is some ‘new-ness’ to the Committee this time; not only did Heather Leeson stand for election as a brand new member, but Pete Crispin volunteered to step into the vacant Chair - we’re delighted to welcome both of them to their new roles. Pete has been a supporter of M.V.C.G. ever since we started and he was a councillor for Bedminster ward, and Heather has a very strong background in planning matters through her involvement with Bristol Civic Society (also my own training ground!). The other Committee members stood for re-election (hooray!), and you can see all the names and contact details on the back page.

But the full report from the A.G.M. which you can read on pages 4-8 isn’t introspective at all. It’s a record of a lot of hard work, done by a wide range of people, which has achieved some real successes. There have been set-backs as well, of course, some of them because of the extremely limited resources which the City Council have available in many of the areas which concern us.

It’s tempting to say, with City Council elections coming up on 6 May, please vote for whoever will give more resources to what we want. But no-one can say that, partly because of the economic situation, but also because of the stranglehold which national government has always traditionally had on local councils. But that’s another story! M.V.C.G. will continue to press whoever is running the Council to do the right thing environmentally, and we will continue to work on our own projects to improve our BS13 area of Bristol.

ANDRÉ COUTANCHE

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## NEWS FROM MANOR WOODS VALLEY L.N.R.

**W**E HOPE that a lot of you enjoyed the snowy landscapes in Manor Woods Valley. A few weeks ago M.V.C.G. was contacted by Justin Smith, the Council's new Woodland and Wildlife Officer, to discuss some coppicing in areas where the scrub has grown so much that it has become less valuable for wildlife. The work started a few weeks ago and it will be a nice improvement.

The trees planted below Valley Heights flats look very good. A nice conclusion to a long saga.

Since early January our group has been working on the Flower Meadow interpretation board (see the winter *Newsletter*). It has been a pleasure to work with designer Clare Chalice from Dandi Creative Design, who designed the other two boards. Though it has taken a lot of our time we all think it has been an enjoyable project. The board will be up, along the main path, just after the interceptor in the next few weeks. Remember the meadow is at its best between mid-May and mid-June. We showed the A.G.M. a 'sneak peek' of what was *almost* the finished design, but, just before this *Newsletter* was printed, we got the final, agreed, design from Clare - see the opposite page.

Our local 'Walking for Health' group and other walking groups use Manor Woods Valley. In late February we were asked to accompany a 'Walking for Health' group from Horfield. We can be available to accompany these groups and remember, we still have *My Manor Woods Book* available from Bishopsworth Library or telephone 964 3106 - price £2.00.

### **BISHOPSWORTH LIBRARY WILDLIFE GARDEN**

It is still too early to see visible results of our autumn work. In a few weeks' time we will be planting a small area of wild flowers to create a mini-meadow. If you would like to help, ring Marie Jo on 964 3106. Our final planting session will be on Saturday 15 May (see the Programme on page 11). Help from M.V.C.G. members, library staff and friends will be welcome. We will be planting flowering perennials. If you have any to spare from your garden, please let us know before 15 May.

MARIE JO COUTANCHE AND THE  
MANOR WOODS VALLEY WORKING GROUP

# A Mid-Summer Meadow

Welcome to Manor Woods Valley Local Nature Reserve

**From landfill to landscape**

Most flowery meadows have been around for centuries – this one is different. The slope was once quarried for clay. In the early 1950s it became a landfill, and was then covered with soil and grassed over. Soon after, flowers appeared but for the next thirty years the grass was kept short. In the mid 1990s the grass was allowed to grow. No one knows where the large number of wild flowers came from, but the meadow is now a treasured local landscape.

**A blaze of colour**

From May to July the meadow is a rich carpet of wildflowers. Why not take a stroll and see what you can spot? Look out for the white flowers of ox-eye daisy and corky-fruited water dropwort, yellow buttercups and bird's-foot trefoil, sky-blue pale flax, pink bee orchids and purple knapweed.

Grasses form the background of this tapestry of colours. Some years Yorkshire fog gives the slope a pale pink hue.

On our dingy river banks, common blue butterflies, bird's-foot trefoil, meadow grass and black thimble

**KEY**

- Pond
- ▨ Subsoil outcrop
- Oakley
- ▬ Woodland path
- River path
- No entrance

Scale: 1:10000

**Look out for**

You may be lucky to spot a green woodpecker and other birds feeding in the meadow. Rabbits can sometimes be seen here too.

For a fungal foray visit the meadow in April to see St George's mushrooms, and in the autumn for snowy waxcaps.

**Looking after our meadow**

The meadow is cut for hay in the summer months.

Manor Woods Valley Local Nature Reserve is owned by Enstet City Council and looked after with the help of local people. We hope you enjoy exploring the meadow. Please help keep it special by using the bins provided for litter and dog waste.

**Busy bees and beautiful butterflies**

The meadow is alive with insects. On sunny days bumble bees are busy finding nectar among the flowers. Common blue, marbled white, small tortoiseshell and meadow brown butterflies fit about. Keep watch for red and black burnet moths – one of our few daytime moths.

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Manor Woods, NI 16 1AA

**Discover wildlife on your doorstep**

**Find out more**  
Please contact: Enstet Parks  
www.enstet.gov.uk/parks T: 017 822 2710

## WILD BS13

- On 15 January, when we met Justin Smith to recce the coppicing work in Manor Woods Valley (see opposite), we saw a few MANDARIN DUCKS on the pond.
- A JAY was squawking loudly on a post near Bishopsworth Library in early February. Paul Mizen has had four jays at a time in his garden on Bedminster Down, and a SPARROWHAWK.
- Also in early February, two pairs of TEALS were on the Malago in Manor Woods Valley, not far from the picnic table (Angela always reported visiting teals in Manor Woods Valley at this time of year; we believe her now!).

We haven't had any recent reports of the KINGFISHERS which were regularly sighted on the Malago not so long ago. Has anyone seen one?

Please let us have *your* reports of wildlife in BS13 - and not just birds!

## REPORT FROM THE A.G.M.

**A**NDRÉ COUTANCHE welcomed everyone to the meeting. The evening followed the traditional format: reports on our various activities during 2009 given by the appropriate person, followed by our special guest speaker. This year, Alison Bromilow, told us about the work of the Neighbourhood Planning Network.

**Programme Report:** Lola Hardingham said our first speaker after the 2009 A.G.M. was Georgie Bigg, Chair of the North Somerset District Campaign to Protect Rural England, who told us about the excellent work which they did, particularly to protect our Green Belts. Subsequently MVCG joined the CPRE and their magazine was available for members to see. In April, the talk by Yvonne Cox of Hedgehog Rescue was popular and well attended. She alerted us to the many dangers faced by unwary hedgehogs. We gave a donation to the speaker and received an 'adoption certificate' for one of the hedgehogs. In July, our visit to the sewage treatment works at Avonmouth had to be called off because of torrential rain. In September, a successful and enjoyable visit was made to the Knowle West Media Centre. The start of the winter season in October brought us Richard Bevan, the Council's Pest Control Services Manager. The small audience was enthralled by his entertaining and fascinating talk, and we may hear him again soon talking about the work of the dog wardens. In November, the Bishopsworth Quiz took place, and our two teams excelled themselves by taking second and joint-third places. December saw our usual Christmas Party, and thanks were due to Angela, Lis and Paul who did all the work for this. In January, Ann Mead showed us some of her marvellous photographs of wildlife in her garden. They were mainly of insects, and she opened our eyes to their beauty which we don't always notice. Lola concluded by thanking all who had helped in arranging events, especially Paul who has suggested and contacted several of our speakers. Lola finished by asking for suggestions, and hoped that future events would be well supported.

André thanked Lola and her helpers and emphasised that more support was needed. He reminded members that a recent *Newsletter* had asked for ideas on the Programme and there had been no response.

**Planning Issues:** André Coutanche gave a broadly similar report to that of last year. He continues to monitor the weekly lists of planning applications; he looks more closely at a few of the ones in our three wards which seem significant and then brings a few of those to the Committee. In many cases, the Committee is content to let the planners decide without making a comment. In a handful of cases each year, we e-mail the planners with our views. Like last year, there have been few 'commercial' applications for development; most of the significant residential proposals are from housing associations. These generally tend to be of a reasonable architectural and environmental standard, and we often get to hear of them in advance, since the Housing Associations are usually good about consultation.

The first site 'brought forward' from last year was the Redhouse development of Very Sheltered Housing for Brunelcare, now called Waverley Gardens. It was completed during 2009; it's impressive and it seems to be working out as an asset in the area.

For many years, we have been concerned and offended by the mess at Highridge Playing Fields. Eventually, during 2009, the planning permission which Highridge United Football Club had to develop the site ran out. The latest news - it's difficult to know whether it's good or bad - is that they have now made a new application for just changing rooms and not a new pavilion as before. This application has only just appeared but, regrettably, it bears all the hallmarks of the Club's uncomprehending approach both to how planning works and to their broader social and environmental responsibilities.

The 'Lake Shore' development by Urban Splash at the Wills office site remained on hold during the year. We hope that 2010 will see completion, or at least the start of occupation, because we reckon this development will be massively important for the regeneration of this part of Hartcliffe and for the wonderful open space - Crox Bottom - that it is part of.

Another hardy perennial is what we traditionally call the 'Matties block' - 1-4 The Parade, Bishopsworth, opposite St Peter's Church. The planning permission which this site received two years ago - and which we were happy to support - has still not been implemented because of the recession. Again this year, we sent a letter to the owner to draw his attention to the inadequate maintenance of the surroundings, where brambles were growing over the pavements and the rubbish bins were overflowing. This is one of those sites where Marie Jo and others keep a beady eye, and neglect doesn't go neglected for very long!

The Old Vicarage, Bishopsworth, was still with us in 2009. We supported the City Council in the developer's appeal against refusal for planning permission for two bungalows on the site, but the appeal was allowed.

Last year, we reported on the saga of the Wring's application to extend their yard into the Quarries area of Manor Woods Valley. After permission was granted, the monitoring of what happened on the ground was picked up mostly by the Manor Woods Valley Working Group, whose report follows.

We also monitored some major planning issues which weren't planning applications. We kept a close eye on Bristol City Football Club's application for a new stadium at Ashton Gate. We didn't formally comment, since it's outside our area, and we've got quite enough to do! But it involved building on the Green Belt, and building on a Site of Nature Conservation Interest, which have implications very close to home. The final decision is still some way off, though the principle of allowing a stadium on the Green Belt was regrettably conceded.

The stadium application also had implications for the urban extension, which has gone quiet lately and which will certainly be a hostage to whatever happens in the General Election. But we were very worried, to say the least, at the cavalier way the Government treated consultation on the Regional Spatial Strategy, and, indeed, the whole 'Regional' system which gave rise to this very 'top-down' approach.

And then there was the Ring Road. Now called the South Bristol Link, we opposed it for the simple reason that, while the costs - financial and environmental - were self-evidently huge, the claimed benefits were uncertain or implausible. This is a process which is continuing. Paul Mizen has got very involved in both the Urban Extension and the Ring Road, and we're very grateful to him for attending meetings and keeping the Committee informed.

Also in the transport field - a bumpy one, since the culture of transport planners has only recently started to get its collective head around the idea of public consultation and involvement - we had the Bus Rapid Transit proposals. For our part of Bristol, this is a new route from Hengrove to the Centre. The people in the firing line for this are the Northern Slopes Initiative, who are our friends and neighbours the other side of Hartcliffe Way. We supported them in opposing a route which would run straight through their green spaces - green spaces which warrant Local Nature Reserve status. Current thinking seems to be for a route down the east side of Hartcliffe Way, which may be acceptable in principle, but everything depends on the detailed design and how it impinges on the green space and the Pigeonhouse Stream. Oscar White has been attending the often unsatisfactory meetings about this and we're grateful to him for keeping us informed.

**Progress with Manor Woods Valley:** Marie Jo Coutanche, as Convenor of the Manor Woods Valley working group, reported that since last year's A.G.M., the Group has held meetings every six weeks or so. Quite a lot of work has been involved to bring several projects to fruition and initiate others. Marie Jo thanked the group members - Angela James, Mavis Palmer and Marian Green.

In early April, new contractors started - Quadron Services - and the standard of rubbish collections, of mowing and attention to detail immediately improved and our litter pick sessions became less needed. However, we have to remain vigilant as we still have litter black spots or uncleared paths in the summer which we have to report to Julian Cox, our Community Park Officer. We are still considering litter-pick sessions when needed.

We wanted to make the River Path which MVCG members reopened a few years ago more visible to walkers by adding a finger to point the way to the path on the fingerpost at the Interceptor. Angela and Tony James got quotes, collected the new 'finger' and then installed it in late January. It was paid for out of MVCG funds. We couldn't resist mentioning this at last year's A.G.M., even though it happened in early 2009, but thank you again to Angela and Tony for their initiative and hard work!

Early last year we reported our long-term aspiration for a crossing for walkers close to the dam, which could link the River Path to the Woodland Path. This has been André's project and he has worked with the City Council, the Environment Agency and with the help of South Bristol Riverscapes. The project has now ground to a halt as we have been faced with an enormous amount of red tape and overstretched Council employees. It has been a disappointment and thank you to André for working hard on the project. We hope it may be possible to resurrect this one day.

On the subject of the stream, we have no specific news about the removal of silt in the pond but we remain optimistic that it will happen in the fairly near future.

One of our dreams after the installation of the interpretation boards on the woodland and the pond nearly two years ago, was to create one for the wildflower meadow. Our first grant application, to the Lottery 'Awards for All', was turned down. We then applied to the landfill company Yansac, who gave us a grant three years ago to build the path through the wood. In November 2009 we heard that we had been given a grant for £2000.00. We were really delighted, and the Manor Woods Valley working group has been working since then, to write and refine the text and chose illustrations. We're working with Clare Chalice, the designer who did the other two boards, and the design is nearly finalised.

The walks we organised last spring and summer were very poorly attended though well advertised in the *Newsletter* and locally. This was a disappointment. It raises the issue of how much local people use their open spaces. One of Malago Valley Conservation Group's aims is to improve them, the theory being that, as these green spaces were becoming more pleasant, people would not feel they always need to get into their car if they want some fresh air. We do not know how much we have achieved.

It was rewarding this year to get some help with practical work. Two sessions were organised by the Avon Invasive Weed Forum to pull out the invasive weed Himalayan Balsam. Employees from Bristol City Council, Wessex Water and the Environment Agency who were on environmental leave took part. In early autumn 'NetRegs' came to clear rubbish from the Malago. For volunteers like us and people at work it has been an enriching experience.

The Manor Woods Valley Working Group has extended its field of action as far as Bishopsworth Library garden. In May 2009 the Environment Adviser from the City Council - our good friend Tanya Darch, now Tanya Saker - visited the library and suggested the rear green space could be improved. Jennie Tippler, the Head Librarian contacted MVCG and our group set out to create a more pleasant area for wildlife and users of the library. So far we have planted a tree, bulbs and small shrubs. We have put up bird boxes and bat boxes. The work is carrying on in the spring of 2010.

We are still involved with planning matters and can report a satisfactory conclusion. For nearly three years we have been reporting about the Valley Heights flats (old petrol station) on Bishopsworth Road. The Planning Department acted too late and the landscaping at the back was never enforced. After continuous pressure on the Planning and Parks Departments we finally heard that the Section 106 money which developers pay to the City Council would be used to landscape the area below the flats. Last autumn it finally happened; the path from Bishopsworth Road was landscaped and wild trees were planted below the flats. They will soon form a nice screen between the flats and Manor Woods Valley.

In the autumn of 2008 Wrings in Vale Lane were granted permission to extend their yard. MVCG had opposed this application because of the location of the site but we then looked forward to the planning conditions to screen the yard from the quarry area being put in place. Planning enforcement in the City Council has improved in recent years, but

they can't themselves monitor how each and every planning permission is implemented. So we have been keeping an eye on what Wrings were doing, which wasn't easy with the overgrown quarries area. We asked the Council's Nature Conservation Officer whether things were being done as they should be, and she involved Enforcement. We sent them photos of how things are on the ground, which leave a lot to be desired. There is currently an application from Wrings about the conditions relating to their planning permission, which sounds potentially worrying. We are in close contact with the planners.

Sally Oldfield, our Local Nature Reserve Officer who left in September 2008, was never replaced, and we have managed to carry on with a number of projects on our own. However, it is obvious the task is harder as we do not get much support from the authorities. Our Community Park Officer, though very helpful, is overstretched and can only be a point of contact. We welcome people at our group meetings as we need members to tell us what you think, give us suggestions, point out what we may not have noticed etc.

**Progress with Other Projects:** André Coutanche began with South Bristol Riverscapes Initiative. The Steering Group has continued to meet regularly, and it's been both interesting and useful to get to know better some of the other groups concerned with waterways in South Bristol. The annual Malago Trek, which we help to organise and guide, has been done under the auspices of South Bristol Riverscapes. This year saw the launch of the very attractive Riverscapes website which is linked from our own.

We continued our involvement with the Parks Forum in 2009. This is a very useful forum which keeps us informed about Bristol Parks and the other Park Groups. Unfortunately, much of the news about Bristol Parks has been disappointing this year. Peter Wilkinson, the former Head of Parks, was told to go; whatever his strengths and weaknesses as the Manager of the Department, he was a very approachable chap and always supported the Forum meetings. Nevertheless, it was on his watch that the reorganisation happened which, whatever its pros and cons elsewhere in the City, has been pretty bad news for us. Julian Cox, our Community Parks Officer, is unfailingly helpful and always responds to Marie Jo's e-mails, but he is grossly overstretched and has no budget. There seems to be no prospect of this changing for the foreseeable future - which is one of the reasons we remain sceptical about the Area Green Space Plans which were due for consultation about now but which have been put back because of delays in the wider planning system.

We wondered last year whether we could carry on collecting and sorting out cans, since the price of aluminium had gone down from 40 to 25 pence a kilo. But a compromise was reached which has made the work much easier. M.V.C.G. members or anybody can still bring cans to 14 Queens Road but we now ask that they are sorted, so aluminium only, and if possible crushed. So it is still a way of making some money for M.V.C.G. which will be used to plant daffodils or in 2009, plants for the library garden.

We continue to produce our regular quarterly *Newsletter*, and we've revamped our website. The Programme and all the *Newsletters* on it are kept up to date.



# ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR 2009

HERE ARE THE ACCOUNTS which Beryl Heaton presented to the A.G.M. on 16 February. Beryl reported that we had an excess of expenditure over income, something which has rarely happened in her ten years as treasurer. It had come about mainly because bank interest rates have fallen considerably. In 2008 the interest amounted to £151.52 but in 2009 it was only £19.48. Beryl expected it to be even less in the current year. However, the committee is not unduly worried as the money has been well spent and has allowed us to complete more projects. We had an item of expenditure of £59.34 for the library garden. We were asked by Bishopsworth Library to make a wildlife garden at the rear of the building and they agreed to pay half the cost. They have actually given us £35, but we know we still need some £10 or so to finish the work in the spring. We felt that this project, together with the purchase of the arm for the finger post, was a worthwhile use of our funds. Once again we have Marie Jo to thank for undertaking the sorting and delivery to the scrap metal merchants of aluminium cans. The resulting £46.30 has made a welcome addition to our income.

<b>Income</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>£</b>
Membership . . . . .	353.00	Postage & Stationery . . . . .	20.00
Functions . . . . .	34.05	Refreshments at A.G.M. . . . .	27.56
Other Income . . . . .	<u>177.23</u>	Hall Hire . . . . .	144.00
		Printing . . . . .	72.90
		Speakers fees/donations/expenses . .	92.00
		Christmas Meeting . . . . .	34.83
		Sundries . . . . .	12.79
		Library Garden . . . . .	59.34
		Finger Arm . . . . .	150.65
		CPRE Subscription . . . . .	<u>32.00</u>
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b>564.28</b>	<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b><u>646.07</u></b>

	<b>£</b>
<b>Excess of expenditure over income . . . . .</b>	<b>81.79</b>
Brought forward from 2008 . . . . .	<u>6254.44</u>
<b>Balance carried forward to 2010 . . . . .</b>	<b><u>6172.65</u></b>

Made up of: Cash in hand . . . . .	3.15
HSBC Money Manager A/C . . . . .	5365.74
HSBC Current A/C . . . . .	803.76

<b>Detail of Other Income</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>Detail of Function Income</b>	<b>£</b>
Donations . . . . .	39.00	Christmas Party . . . . .	25.00
Sale of Aluminium Cans etc. . . . .	46.30	Refreshments . . . . .	<u>9.05</u>
Book Sales . . . . .	37.00		34.05
Bank Interest . . . . .	19.48		
Find . . . . .	0.45		
Donation from Library for garden . .	<u>35.00</u>		
	177.23		

BERYL HEATON  
*Hon. Treasurer*

## THE ST ANDREW'S TRAIL

**D**UNDRY SLOPES are a glorious asset to our part of Bristol - and a perennial problem because of lack of management and maintenance. It seems to be the case that, every few years, a group of people get together to try to get something done. The latest venture has come through the 'Pride of Place' group, one of the 'task groups' which operate as part of the Hartcliffe & Witherwood Community Partnership.

Unlike the late, lamented Dundry Hill Group, this initiative has deliberately limited itself to the City Council-owned lower slopes - sensibly enough, given the amount of work which *could* be attempted and the limited volunteer and paid resources available. But these things often work better when the net is spread widely, and a very welcome arrival on the scene is the Friends of the Community Forest Path, in the shape of their chair, Chris Bloor. Chris is closely involved with footpaths throughout the former Avon area, and his special interest is 'Gateways' - easy to find and to use routes out of the city and into the surrounding countryside.

There's an official footpath running from Bishport Avenue in Hartcliffe up the Slopes - its designation is FP306, and it starts by the Scout Hut belonging to the 81st (St Andrew's) Scout Group. Under pressure from Chris and the Council footpaths officer, Bristol Parks are undertaking clearance of the brambles from this path to make the route up the slopes clear and easy to use. They will also do an annual clearance to keep it available. (This is an historic event! Bristol Parks have acknowledged in the past that they have neglected Dundry Slopes).

The footpath leads over Dundry and across the beautiful North Somerset countryside to Chew Magna, passing through the churchyard of St Andrew's Church. So with St Andrew at each end, this has inspired the idea of naming it the St Andrew's Trail, with a possible simple interpretation board and waymarking by the Scout Hut forming the St Andrew's Forest Gateway.

To encourage use of the opened-up path, and to demonstrate the value of this potential Gateway site, a walk has been organised along the St Andrew's Trail for Saturday 8 May. The details are in the Programme on the facing page. The intention is to have a not-too-demanding stroll to Chew Magna (just three miles) and an optional pub lunch. You can either stroll back again, or - if you watch the clock! - catch a bus back. All welcome!

ANDRÉ COUTANCHE

## PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS AND EVENTS

**O**UR REGULAR meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month at St Peter's Rooms (side of St Peter's Church, Bishopsworth), starting at 7.30pm. The **M** symbol means our own meetings, to which anyone is very welcome, member or not. We are always happy to include information about other meetings which may interest our members.

**M Saturday 13 March:** *Litter Picking* in Manor Woods Valley for about an hour. Meeting point: **entrance at bottom of Valley Road** at 10.00am. Please wear sturdy shoes. Gloves and bags provided.

**M Tuesday 16 March:** JAMES TWINE, who is the Commercial Director of the Bristol-based Soil Association, and who is an organic farmer in Somerset, will tell us about the *Soil Association and what they do*.

**M Tuesday 20 April:** STEPHEN WICKHAM, the Vice-Chairman of Bristol Civic Society, will explain the *History and Work of the Civic Society*.

**Saturday 8 May:** *St Andrew's Trail Walk* (see opposite page). Meet at the Scout Hut on Bishport Avenue (opposite the junction with Honey Garston Road) at 10.15 for a prompt start at 10.30am. The stroll over Dundry to Chew Magna should take under two hours, followed by an informal pub lunch in Chew Magna for those who want it. The 672 bus service runs from Chew Magna back to Bristol, but only in the mornings, with the last bus scheduled to depart Chew Magna at 1252. Otherwise, it's a stroll back again!

**M Saturday 15 May:** *Planting at rear of Bishopsworth Library* (see report on page 2). Meet at 10.00am, and please bring a trowel if you can.

**Saturday 19 June:** *Hartcliffe Millennium Green Fun Day*, from 12 noon until 4.00pm at the Green, Bishport Avenue (opposite 'The Groves' tower blocks). Always lots of attractions and activities!

**Sunday 20 June:** The annual *Malago Trek*. Start at the car park at ASDA, Bedminster, near the store entrance, at 10.30am. This is a little later than in previous years, because we will make a fuller day of it, with our lunch stop in Manor Woods Valley, to admire the meadow and the new Meadow Interpretation board (see pages 2 and 3). We'll then continue, refreshed, up Dundry Slopes. Plenty of buses back to the start. Join in for all or part or the walk.

## A LITTLE REMINDER!

MEMBERSHIP of Malago Valley Conservation Group runs on a calendar year basis, so you should have found in the last edition of the *Newsletter* a form to renew your subscription. (This wouldn't have applied if you joined in the last few months of 2009, in which case your membership runs through to the end of 2010, or if you are receiving a complimentary copy of the *Newsletter*).

The majority of members have renewed, and we're very grateful for your continued support. If there's a renewal form with this *Newsletter*, it's because we don't seem to have heard from you, so please fill it in while you remember and get it and your sub. off to Beryl at 3 Kings Walk, BS13 8BB or to André at 14 Queens Road, BS13 8LB.

Your membership increases the influence which M.V.C.G. has in trying to improve our corner of Bristol, and your subscription helps to make possible the projects our hard-working volunteers undertake.

*THANK YOU.*

## Malago Valley Conservation Group

<b>Chairman</b>	Peter Crispin	907 0623
<b>Vice-Chairman</b>	Mavis Palmer	964 2344
<b>Hon. Secretary</b>	André Coutanche	964 3106
<b>Hon. Treasurer</b>	Beryl Heaton	964 5780

### Committee Members

Anton Bantock, Lola Hardingham, Heather Leeson, Paul Mizen, Lis Pibworth

### Co-opted Committee Members

Valerie Gay, Diana Porter, Sue Walker, CSV Environment, Cllrs Mark Brain, 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.