

Valley Conservation Society

doing nothing is not an option



Members' newsletter No 179

We are a non-political organisation

May 2022

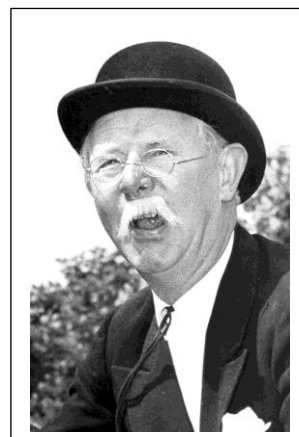
An invitation to afternoon tea

Our members John and Esther Talbot are inviting all VCS members to take afternoon tea in the garden of their lovely home – Abbeygate Place. Their charming house is Grade II* listed and dates in part from the 1400s.

A previous owner of the home was Richard Hearne, who will be known to members of a certain age as the children's entertainer and TV personality Mr Pastry.

Abbeygate Place is reached via a private drive off Stockett Lane, close to the junction with Bockingford Lane. (Postcode: ME15 0PP)

This free events starts at 2pm on Saturday, June 11.



Mr Pastry



Please email the secretary on a128smith@btinternet.com or phone Alan on 01622 751926 if you wish to come, so that we might give our hosts some idea of the numbers to cater for.

There is plenty of parking.

Left, Richard Hearne and his wife Yvonne at Abbeygate Place in 1966

Barbecue

A reminder that our summer barbecue returns on Saturday, July 23.

This year ticket sales are being **strictly** limited to 100 – and we are already over half-way there.

Please buy your tickets pronto to avoid missing out.

The price this year is £12.50 for members and £15 for guests. The sharp-eyed among you will quickly realise that it is actually cheaper to sign your guest up as a member – yes, we are shamelessly trying to boost our membership figures!

In any case only two guests are allowed per member (children under 14 remain free).

Music this year will be from the Soundwave Disco Roadshow who will supply us with age-appropriate hits. Doors open at 3pm. Order tickets from the secretary as above.



The Barbecue Boys

Annual General Meeting

We held our AGM on Saturday, April 30. It was poorly attended. We would like to know if this was due to the change of location, the change of time (morning to afternoon) or whether it is that people are still Covid-averse.

If you would normally have attended, but didn't this year, we'd appreciate it if you could drop us a line to say why not, so that we can make appropriate adjustments next time.



Work party stalwart John Smith stepped down from the executive committee at the AGM. He was replaced by Freda Cornwell by a unanimous vote.

This year's AGM was held in April because of Covid concerns, but following a resolution agreed at the AGM, the annual meetings will be always in April in future.

Spring Walk



Those attending the Spring Walk on St George's Day had an enjoyable guided tour of the valley followed by some scrumptious cakes. Donations raised £40 for the society.

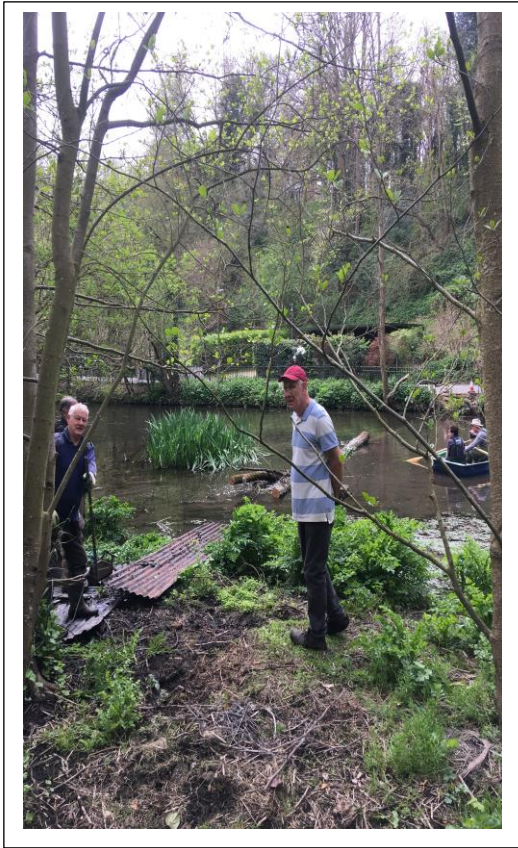
Elections

The borough council elections have just taken place and in South Ward, which covers our end of the Valley, Cllr Derek Mortimer was re-elected.



It is actually Derek's turn to be Mayor this year and he has kindly offered to name VCS as one of his Mayoral charities for the year. Thanks Derek!

Fallen tree



Members of the work party were set a challenge recently when a large Ash tree fell into the pond, damaging some of the railings beside Cave Hill as it did so.

The tree was suffering from Ash die-back.

The team had to scratch their heads on how to deal with such a large, heavy trunk, now dangling over the water.

They eventually worked out that they had to sit on the trunk to saw it up, before winching the heavy off-cuts to shore and up a make-shift ramp of corrugated iron. Well done lads.

New faces are always welcome at the work party, which meets every Tuesday at 10am at the Conservation Cabin in Cave Hill. Details from our chairman Bryn Cornwell on 01622 746514.

Calendar



We are still seeking submissions of photographs of life in the Valley for use in our next calendar. Send your entries to a128mith@btinternet.com, saying when and where your photo was taken. Thanks! *Meanwhile here's a nice one from John Robertson.*