

# Valley Conservation Society



*doing nothing is not an option*

*Members' newsletter No 168*

*We are a non-political organisation*

*January 2020*

## Happy New Year to all our members



Last year saw a steady advancement for the Society, although 2019 was not without its setbacks, notably the break-in at the Conservation Cabin.

Membership remained strong and our membership Secretary Tony Day reported that we closed the year with 515 members – including one in Australia!

The weekly work parties continued to be well supported and much progress was made both on our own land and ponds and at the Hayle Park Nature Reserve. Wood chippings had been laid on footpaths, stone chippings around the parking area and cabin, a new five-bar gate installed, a noticeboard erected, and numerous tree whips planted.

In addition, contractors had been engaged to carry out extensive tree management in Treacle Wood, and several trees brought down in high winds were dealt with by our volunteers.

There were two social events with live music and a fish and chip supper, held at Boughton Monchelsea Hall, in addition to a new band at our best ever attended summer barbecue, and a children's show, Arbor the Tree, held in Hayle Park.

The society's Facebook continued to be developed, with posts often attracting around 500 hits (one had over 6,000), while in addition, our chairman, Bryn Cornwell, continued to deliver talks to other groups such as the Barming WI, spreading our message far and wide.

New housing areas had been leafleted to recruit new members. At Hayle Park, the barn had been completed and a new allocation of land to join the nature reserve, at the top of Farleigh Hill, has been agreed with Maidstone council.

Almost £5,000 worth of tools were stolen from the Conservation Cabin in July. They were insured, but thanks to a grant from Kent County Councillor Ian Chittenden and several generous donations from members, additional security measures have now been installed at the cabin, including flood-lighting and CCTV, motion and infra-red sensors.

The year ended with the disappointing news that Maidstone council has granted the final part of the planning permission that Chailey Homes had sought to build on land to the east of the Postley Road extension – sixty-two new homes are now on the way. Ref no: 19/503702.

# Annual General Meeting

Please take this as notice that the Society's annual general meeting will be held on Saturday, February 15, starting at 10am.

It will be held as usual at the Eling Court Day Centre, off Hilden Shaw on the Broadoak Avenue estate (ME15 6DE).

The AGM is your opportunity to hear reports of all the Society's activities during the past year, and your chance to elect a new committee to run the Society.

Importantly it is also the best opportunity to raise any concerns you may have or to proffer any suggestions or ideas for the future course of the Society.

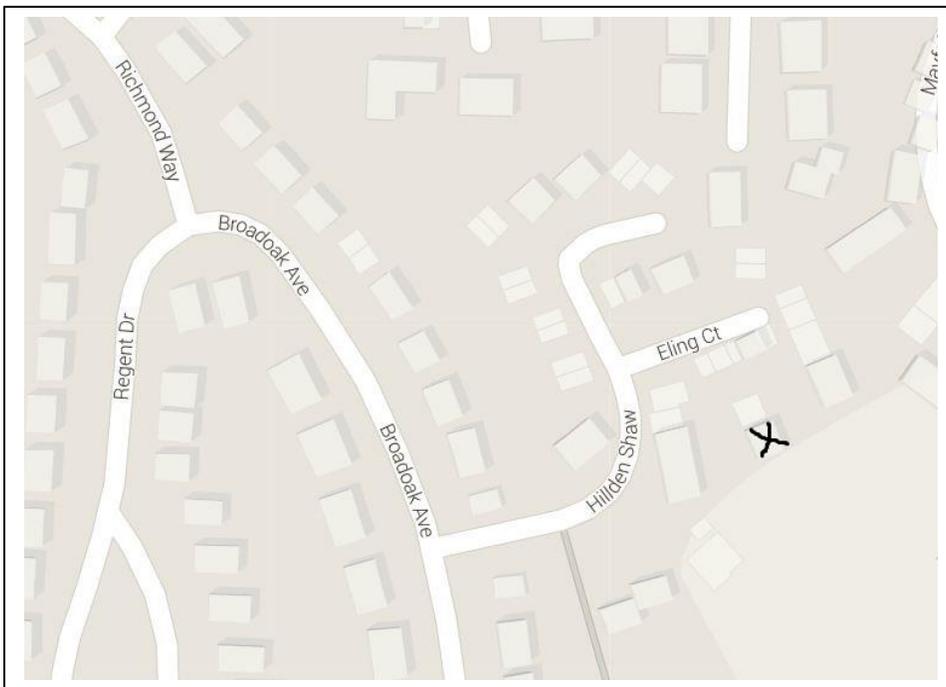
The meeting usually ends around 12.30pm. Coffee will be served.

In accordance with the constitution, all the existing executive committee members must step down and members will have the opportunity to re-elect them or to elect new members.

The AGM will include an open session for points raised from the floor, but members can also ask for items to be placed on the agenda by prior notice to the secretary Alan Smith on 01622 751926 or email [a128smith@btinternet.com](mailto:a128smith@btinternet.com) (before February 1st please).

Of course, to vote you must be a paid-up member of the Society, and so it is time once again to ask you to renew your membership subscription. A membership application is attached at the end of this newsletter.

We are retaining the membership fee at the nominal sum of £2 per person, but of course we are always happy to receive additional donations. Your membership can also be renewed on the door at the AGM.



X marks the location of the Day Centre



**John Smith fights to clear a tree brought down in October's high winds from the Hayle Mill pond**

**The work party plant tree whips alongside the fence in Hayle Mill Road in December**



**A public tree planting event in Hayle Park on Saturday, November 3**

# Big thanks to A-Plant

A-Plant (from Burial Ground Lane) again came to our rescue by loaning VCS an excavator for the day to dig a trench to lay an armoured cable the length of Crisbrook Garden to the Conservation Cabin. This was at no cost for the machine hire or transport. It so good that a local company supports us in the way they do.

Big thanks also to Doug Alan for giving up his time to operate the excavator levelling the area, moving the rag-stones, digging the trench, and – once the new armoured cable was laid – back-filling the trench. The work was necessary to lay on an electrical supply to the cabin.



The cabin was wired up for us by B G Electrical Contractors at a very reasonable price. If you need any electrical work undertaken, you will find their website at: [www.bgelectrical-maidstone.co.uk](http://www.bgelectrical-maidstone.co.uk)



**The Tuesday volunteers cleared round Lower Crisbrook pond and also cleared along Hayle Park Nature Reserve rustic fence line ready for planting a new hedge.**



**Clearing a fallen tree from the ponds.**

**After all their hard work, the work party deserve their cuppa in the kitchen of the new barn at Hayle Park**



**COMING SOON...**



**MAIDSTONE COUNCIL APPROVED THE PLANNING APPLICATION FOR 62 HOMES BEHIND RICHMOND WAY BY A UNANIMOUS VOTE WITHOUT EVEN ANY DISCUSSION AT THEIR MEETING ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19.**

# VALLEY CONSERVATION SOCIETY

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2020

I/We should like to (re)join the Society: *(Please include your title and first name)*

Names: .....

.....

Address: .....

.....

.....Postcode.....

Phone: ..... E-mail: .....

*(Please write in block capitals)*

Mobile: .....

Signature(s) .....

Membership is £2 per person per year (or 50p for young people aged 14 to 18). Send your application form and your cheque made payable to Valley Conservation Society to:

**Tony Day, Membership Secretary,  
57 Mayfair Avenue, Maidstone, ME15 6BY**

I enclose a cheque/cash for £..... (Donations welcome)

*If you are willing to play an active role in the Society, tick the box you are interested in:*

Leaflet delivery  work parties  fund-raising

**General Data Protection Regulations**  
Please tick the box if you consent to the Valley Conservation Society retaining the details on this form

*Our legal basis for holding and processing the data you provide is our legitimate interest as a membership organisation and we will use it to send you newsletters and other information we consider relevant and useful. We will not disclose it to any third party.*

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**Office use only:**

**Issued:**

**Donation: £**

**Membership Nos**

# Valley Conservation Society

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[www.valleyconservation.org.uk](http://www.valleyconservation.org.uk)

It would greatly assist us if you are willing to pay by standing order.

If you set up a Standing Order **online**, could you please email [vcsmembership@btinternet.com](mailto:vcsmembership@btinternet.com) giving the names of the members it covers, so we can credit your payment to each member.

Alternatively, use the form below. Complete it with **YOUR** bank details and send it along with your membership application form to:

Tony Day  
VCS Membership  
57 Mayfair Avenue  
Maidstone, ME15 6BY

Tony will do the rest.

The annual subscription is £2 per person (50p for 14 to 18-year-olds).

*Of course, additional donations are always welcome!*

## STANDING ORDER MANDATE

To: **The Manager**, (add name and address of your bank/building society)

.....

Name(s) of Account Holders .....

Account Number: ..... Sort Code: .....

Please pay:

**Lloyds Bank plc**, Week Street, Maidstone (309537) Branch, PO Box 1000, Box BX1 1LT

For the credit of: **Valley Conservation Society**

Account Number: **02166853** Sort Code: **30 95 37**

The sum of £..... starting on .....2020

and thereafter on 1<sup>st</sup> day of January every year until further notice.

*(please allow at least 10 days to start date for bank processing)*

Signature(s) ..... Date: .....