

Valley Conservation Society



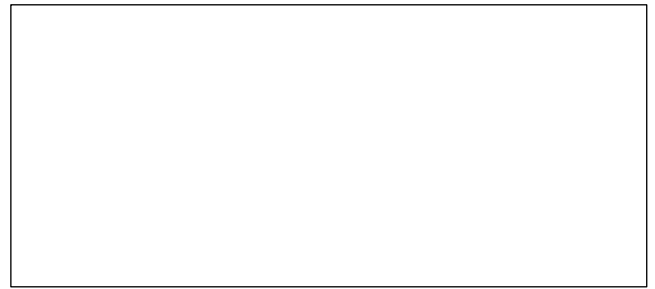
doing nothing is not an option

Members' newsletter No 169

We are a non-political organisation

March 2020

Book now for our summer barbecue



The annual summer barbecue this year will be on **Saturday, July 18**. As usual it will be held in the grounds of The Manor at Hayle Place.

There will be music from **The Swinging Sixties**, who will play three sets between 5pm and 8pm. Gates open at 3pm and food will be served from 4pm onwards.



Last year's barbecue was our best attended in 20 years – in fact it was a little too well attended and our chefs struggled to keep up with demand.

Your executive committee has determined that the same thing will not happen this year. We are purchasing an additional barbecue to speed up cooking times, but more importantly we have decided to strictly limit tickets numbers to just 100.

That means that if you leave it until the last minute to request a ticket, you will almost certainly be disappointed.

Please book early with Alan on [01622 751926](tel:01622751926) or email a128smith@btinternet.com

Tickets will be £12.50 each (children under 14 come free, but still need a ticket so that we can judge numbers for catering).

Numbers will be strictly limited to 100 people.

Coronavirus

We are of course mindful of the threat of coronavirus. As we go to press, Boris Johnson has just announced that people should stop going out to clubs, pubs and social gatherings.

With that advice in mind, we are **cancelling** the performance of Peachy Beat which we had planned to present at Boughton Monchelsea on May 2. Those who have already bought tickets will receive a full refund.

Furthermore, the **Spring Walk** scheduled for April 25 is also **cancelled** for the same reason. However, the Prime Minister has said there is no reason even for those self –isolating not to go out for exercise if you keep a safe distance from others. So you are all welcome to take your own walk around our land at your convenience.

The summer barbecue is a long way off – and hopefully by July we will be past this crisis. Should however it become necessary to cancel, ticket-holders will receive a full refund.

AGM report 2020

Around 40 members attended the Society's annual general meeting at the Eling Court day room on Saturday, February 15.

Members heard that the Society spent rather more in the past year than it took in – but this was largely as a result of the break-in at the Conservation Cabin and the subsequent costs of making the building more secure and installing an alarm.

We ended the year with a balance of £14,556. Membership was 515.

Members heard of the progress made in improving the Society's lands, with work party chairman Bryn Cornwell thanking all the volunteers for their hard graft.

Cllr Brian Clark, a trustee of the Hayle Park Nature Reserve, gave a report on the progress there – which included adding the former tipsite at the top of Dean Street to the trust's lands.

The following were elected to the Executive Committee for 2020.

Chairman: [Bryn Cornwell](#)

Vice Chairman: [Jane Holman](#)

Secretary: [Alan Smith](#)

Treasurer: [Terry Moore](#)

Committee members:

[Tony Day](#)

[Peter Hobden](#)

[Bryan Stovell](#)

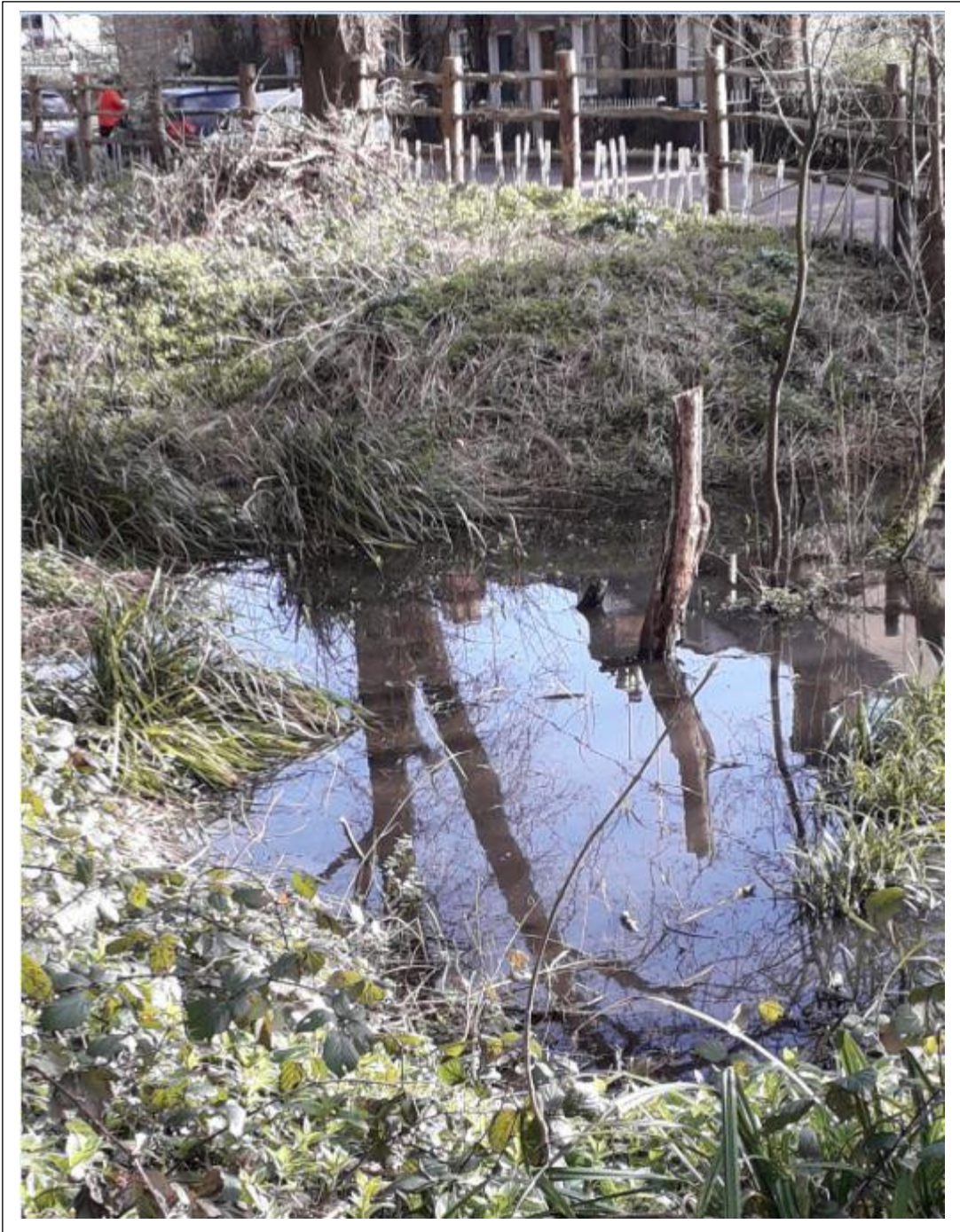
[John Robertson](#)

[Jill Lee](#)

[Brian Shingleton](#)

[Dennis Usmar](#)

[John Smith](#)



New pond at Bockingford

I guess we are all a little fed up with the rain this year that seems never ending. One good thing though is that it has filled the seasonal pond alongside Hayle Mill Cottages.

There had been a pond on this site decades ago, but over time it had filled – mostly with dumped rubbish.

A few years ago, students from Mid Kent College spent part of their course clearing it out for us – and now it has filled again and become popular with our ducks.

Even better news - one of the youngsters so enjoyed the time he spent with Bryn and his volunteers. that since leaving education he has now become a regular member of the Tuesday work party.



Unfortunately the recent storms proved too much for this giant Ash tree at the top of Crisbrook Meadow. The work party then had the arduous task of cutting it up.

Hayle Park Nature Reserve

Since our AGM, the Hayle Park Nature Reserve has applied to the Charity Commission to become a registered charity.

After some negotiation, which required the Trust to change some aspects of its Trust Deed, the application was accepted. It is now registered with the charity number 1188441.

It is hoped the move will make fund-raising easier in future.

VCS nominates three of the nine trustees, with Maidstone council and Tovil Parish Council also nominating three each.

Farmer's Market

The East Farleigh Farmers Market will be held on Sunday, April 5, from 10am till 1pm in The Old School Hall at East Farleigh (ME15 0JL).

It is the only local market which donates all its profits after running costs to small local charities. The profits from the February and March markets, totalling £90, have been given to Hayle Park Reserve to help develop the land bordering Dean Street.

The market is full of local food and crafts, including fudge, jams, chutneys, eggs, soap, patisserie, jewellery, free range pork products, Farleigh fruit juice, hand made greetings cards, candles, artisan dog biscuits, bird boxes and more!

Everyone is invited to the April market which will be in support of the Woodland Trust.

Membership

If you haven't yet renewed your membership for 2020, please do so using the attached form. Membership secretary Tony Day would like you to consider setting up a standing order to re-new in future.

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.

Office use only:

Issued:

Donation: £

Membership Nos

Valley Conservation Society

doing nothing is not an option

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 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 on2020

and thereafter on 1st day of January every year until further notice.

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

Signature(s) Date: