

Valley Conservation Society



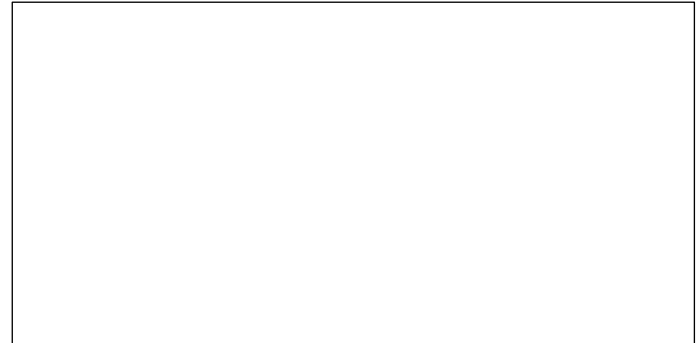
doing nothing is not an option

Members' newsletter No 181

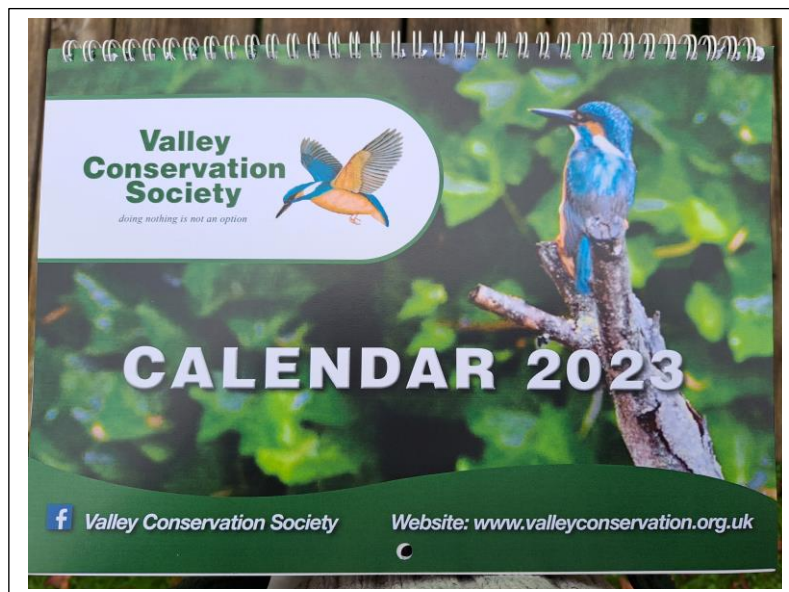
We are a non-political organisation

November 2022

Calendars for 2023 now on sale



For the second year running, we have produced a calendar featuring views around the Loose Valley. All the photographs were submitted by members and we'd like to say a big thank you to everyone who took the time. The committee had a hard task making the final selections.



Our thanks to Michael Innocent whose idea this was and who has arranged all the printing, and to John Robertson, who collated all the entries. The calendars are priced at £5 – the same as last year, despite inflation. They would make ideal Christmas gifts.

They can be ordered from chairman Bryn Cornwell on 01622 746514 or by calling in at the Conservation Cabin in Cave Hill on any Tuesday, during work party hours – 10am till 3pm. Alternatively email the secretary on a128smith@btinternet.com

Of course, our attention has now turned to producing next year's calendar and we are once again asking members to make their photographic submissions.

For guidance, the image should be horizontal (rather than portrait) and with a resolution ideally over 1mb (most modern mobile phones easily meet this requirement). We need to know the details of when and where it was taken.

There is no limit on how many submissions can be made, and don't forget we are looking for 12 pictures that reflect the 12 months of the year.

They can be submitted via the Valley Conservation Facebook page - or email the secretary as above.

Siltex

Some members may have observed a white chalky mist in the water of our ponds a week or so ago. Don't be alarmed. The work party had recently applied Siltex to the ponds – as they do every year. It is a natural substance that helps digest the silt on the bottom of the ponds and so keeps the water free-flowing. The cost of the Siltex – around £250 – was most generously donated by the supermarket chain Waitrose as part of their community support charity.

Boating

The Siltex laying always gives the boys the excuse to launch the VCS rowing boat, but it also came in handy when strong winds brought a tree down right across the ponds.

The only way to remove it was to cut it into sections in situ.



Ash die-back continues to be a problem.

Sadly, we have had to engage contractors to fell another ash near Reeds Pond - we are just waiting on permission from the council. There are another six Ash trees affected that will also have to come down sooner or later.

We are also concerned about an Ash near to the Conservation Cabin that is growing on land belonging to Kent Fire and Rescue Service. We have contacted KFRS and they said they are planning to have it felled soon. Worryingly, it is leaning slightly across the road in Cave Hill.

Membership

Membership lists for 2020 have now closed. Anyone applying to join now before the end of the year will be added to next year's list (and so get two months free!).

Our final total this year was 428 members – an improvement over the previous year's total of 396.

Maidstone Local Plan

Many members will already know that the Government planning inquiry into Maidstone's draft Local Plan was postponed in September for six weeks after the borough attempted one lunch-time to introduce a whole raft of new documentary "evidence" that neither the inspector nor the various opponents to the plan had seen before. However, the inquiry is set to resume soon.

The Society is not opposing the larger elements of the plan as there are other bodies in the room better qualified to do that. We do however intend to submit evidence when the inspector comes to consider site allocations.

We will be challenging the proposal for 250 homes at Abbeygate Farm off Stockett Lane, which would involve not only the loss of good farmland, but also the creation of a road across the Walnut Tree Meadows Nature Reserve.

Even though the Local plan is a long way off being approved, surveyors have already been spotted on the plot and on the field to the east of Stockett Lane, above Hayle Mill.

Work party in action



The work party have been in action this month clearing the re-growth from the banks of Lower Crisbrook Pond, ready for next year's Snowdrops to come through.

Membership renewal

Our membership year starts again in January. Please find a membership renewal form overleaf.

Valley Conservation Society

doing nothing is not an option

see us on Facebook and our website www.valleyconservation.org.uk

Membership Application 2023

Names:

Address:

..... Postcode.....

Email(s) **please print**

Phone Mobile

Membership is £2 per person per year (50p for 14 to 18-year-olds). **It would greatly assist us if you are able to pay by online bank transfer or standing order.** Please email VCSMembership@btinternet.com with your name and address if you choose this option.

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

Cheques/cash can be delivered with your form to Tony Day, Membership Secretary, 57 Mayfair Avenue, Maidstone ME15 6BY. Cheques should be payable to Valley Conservation Society

STANDING ORDER MANDATE

(please allow at least 14 days to start date for bank processing)

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 on2023
and thereafter on 1st day of January every year until further notice.

Signature(s) Date:

General Data Protection Regulations: *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.*

Please tick the box if you consent to VCS retaining the details on this form