

Valley Conservation Society

doing nothing is not an option



Members' newsletter No 192

We are a non-political organisation

April 2025

Our AGM is this Saturday

We invite all members to attend our AGM this coming **Saturday**, April 12, in the King George V Pavilion, off Walnut Tree Lane in Loose (ME15 9RG).

We start at **10am** and expect to finish by 12noon.

We will take a moment to remember our late chairman, Bryn Cornwell.

You will also hear reports from the executive committee on the Society's activities during the past year. There will be a presentation of our accounts and a chance to learn about the exciting social events we have lined up this year.

There will be a question and answer session, with an opportunity to make your suggestions.

Under the terms of the Society's constitution, members are invited to vote in a new committee.

Following Bryn's death, David Hill from Cripple Street was co-opted onto the committee. David will be a familiar face as he has served on the committee before.

This year, Fred Cornwell and Terry Moore will not be seeking re-election. Fortunately, husband and wife team, Nathan and Claire Faulkner, from Bockingford Lane, have expressed a wish to join us.

Funeral

It was heart-warming to see so many VCS members at Vinters Park Crematorium for Bryn's funeral service on March 13, and also his friends from the fire brigade and other walks of life. He was clearly very well respected by a great many people.

Fred advises that donations made in his memory to the charity Hasag Asbestos Disease Support have topped £2,000.

An inquest determined that Bryn died from mesothelioma, an industrial disease, which the coroner said he had probably acquired during his time in the London Fire Brigade.



Work Party



Pictured are
Dennis Usmar
and
Kevin Shanahan

For three weeks, the lads and lass from the Tuesday work party have been helping the Hayle Park Nature Reserve by repairing the Trust's ragstone boundary wall in Hayle Mill Road, where it had collapsed onto the carriageway.

It was a tricky job. The collapse was at one of the narrowest points in the road, with nowhere to park a vehicle nearby, so all the lime mortar had to be mixed at the Conservation Cabin and transported by wheelbarrow some distance up the road.

The job also entailed the use of banksmen either end of the job to slow traffic as it passed the workers. But we think we can all agree they did a great job!



Before and after

Smiths Field

Many will remember the very unwelcome application for 62 homes on Smiths Field, the land off the Postley Road extension behind Richmond Way.

Detailed planning permission was granted to Chailey Homes back in December, 2019, but the firm encountered various difficulties over the access and the rock strata and it was never built out.

Their planning permission has now expired.

There is a new developer for the site – Aile Homes. The company is on the verge of submitting a fresh planning application – but the good news is that it will be for only 36 homes.

In addition, the indicative plan, seen by VCS, indicates far more landscaping and more generous boundary treatments than was originally proposed.

If it is as good as it seems when finally submitted, this will be a significant victory for the Society and for residents who campaigned against the scheme, because the land was officially allocated for 62 homes in both the Maidstone Local Plan and the Local Plan Review.

However, the devil is often in the detail, so we shall have to wait and see.

Repair Café

Congratulations to colleagues in newly formed Carbon Action Tovil (CAT) group. Their first Repair Café event at the Tovil Scout Hall on Saturday, 8th March, was considered to be a great success.

The event was attended by about 60 members of the public who brought 50 items for repair, and the Café was able to fix 31 of them.

The next Café is on May 31. Anyone who wants to get involved in this project should contact VCS committee member Eileen Lewis on eileenmlewis@sky.com or call her on **07709 031365**.

Membership

If you haven't yet renewed your membership for 2025, now is the time to do so. Bring your completed application form (see over) along to the AGM or post it to the membership secretary, Jonathan Leeson.

Please be sure to give us a clear email address if you have one to receive your newsletter.

At £2 a year, it is probably the only one of your bills that is not going up this year!

Remember, you can't vote at the AGM, if you are not a member.

Valley Conservation Society

Membership Application 2025

Name:

Address:

..... Postcode.....

Email(s) ***please print***

Phone Mobile

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

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

Cheques (payable to Valley Conservation Society) or cash can be delivered with your form to:
Jonathan Leeson, Membership Secretary, Ridgeways, Cripple Street, Maidstone, ME15 6DN

**Alternatively, it would assist us if you can pay by setting up a standing order
or bank transfer using the details below.**

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 on2025

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

Signature(s) Date:

**Please email - VCSMembership@btinternet.com with your name and address
if you choose this option to confirm payment**

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. We will not disclose it to any third party.

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

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