

Valley Conservation Society

doing nothing is not an option



Members' newsletter No 193

We are a non-political organisation

late April 2025

Report from our AGM

Thirty-two members attended the Society's AGM at the King George V Pavilion.

They heard reports on our activities over the past year and a minute's silence was observed in memory of Bryn Cornwell, our chairman, who passed away in February.

At the end of 2024, membership stood at 333.

The society was in a good financial position, with £8,447 in the current account and £20,605 in the reserve account, which we are building up towards future land purchases.



Fred Cornwell and Terry Moore stood down from the executive committee this year, and we thank them for their service.

The other members of the committee were willing to stand again and were all re-elected.

Jane Holman was appointed chairman and will also be treasurer.

Alan Smith will be vice chairman and secretary.

Jane's email is VCSchair@gmail.com

New committee members: Claire and Nathan Faulkner

Claire and Nathan Faulkner were new volunteers joining the committee this year.

The others elected were the familiar faces of David Hill, Jill Lee, Jonathan Leeson, Eileen Lewis, John Robertson, Brian Shingleton, Bryan Stovell and Dennis Usmar, who are all pictured below, (except for David who went walkabout).



From left, Brian Shingleton, Jane Holman, Alan Smith, Eileen Lewis, Bryan Stovell, Jill Lee, Jonathan Leeson, Dennis Usmar and John Robertson

The full agenda and reports from the AGM can be found on the Society's website:
www.valleyconservation.org.uk

Calendar photos

We are still on the hunt for photos to be used in next year's calendar.

John Robertson has created a new dedicated email address for you to send your submissions to. It is Valleycsphotos@gmail.com

Please, please, submit landscape (horizontal) photos only. Photos taken on a Smartphone are usually of sufficient quality; there's no need to go out and purchase a Leica SL2.

Just take a snap of what you think epitomises the Loose Valley.



Join us for a night at the Opera



The inaugural meeting of the Valley Conservation Society was in July 2000, with the official founding being in December of that year. Which means that 2025 is our Silver Jubilee.

To mark this special occasion, we have asked internationally renowned Italian tenor **Yuri Sabatini** to perform his favourite Operatic and show songs for us.

The event will be at the King George V Pavilion in Loose starting **at 7pm on Sunday, June 29**. Tickets are £12.50 with free Prosecco and light refreshments during the interval. Please feel free to dress up and pamper yourself.



To sample Yuri's amazing voice, visit his website on <https://www.yurisabatini.com/>

Tickets from Alan Smith on 07860 909903 or email a128smith@btinternet.com
But be quick, there are only 50 available.

Work Party



John Smith and
Kevin Shanahan

Once again, the work party has been helping out our colleagues at the Hayle Park Nature Reserve. Earlier this year, the reserve paid for a small number of trees in the reserve opposite Hayle Mill Cottages to be felled. They included two ash trees that had developed ash dieback. As one also leant over the road towards one of the cottages, they were considered unsafe to leave.

But the contractors just left all the boughs on the ground. Now the work party has tidied up the area, and some of the trunks have been cut into logs and sold.



A rare picture of the work party sitting down on the job, John Smith, Dennis Usmar, Jonathan Leeson and John Robertson

Dog poo

The liveliest topic of debate at the AGM was – surprisingly - dog poo. It seems members are fed up with dog-walkers who go to the trouble of bagging their pet's mess only then to leave the bag hanging in the nearest tree or thrown into a bush. We're sure none of our members would do this, but if you see someone who does, you might point out that there are waste bins by all the main entrances to our land and the Hayle Park Nature Reserve.

Victory In Europe

It is the 80th anniversary of VE day this year – officially on Tuesday, May 8.

We will be joining in the national celebrations a little early by declaring our annual Spring Walk, on **Saturday, May 3**, a VE Day walk.

Meeting at the Conservation Cabin in Cave Hill **at 10am**, there will be guided walking tours of our ponds and land and also of the Hayle Park Nature Reserve, giving you a chance (hopefully) to see the bluebells and also to learn about the tasks carried out by the work party throughout the year.

Along the way, we will make a point of visiting the two war memorials in Tovil, giving a little history of the servicemen whose sacrifice is recorded there (and yes, we know one of the memorials is actually to the fallen of the First World War.)

The walk will end at the garden of The Manor in Hayle Place where some patriotic bunting and festive tea and cakes await.

As well as her usual culinary wonders, our chairman Jane is planning to make some cakes using wartime rationing recipes – which at least will be good for those trying to reduce their sugar and dairy intake!

This free event is kindly being sponsored by **Tovil Parish Council**, and any donations received on the day will go to support a Service charity.

If you have mobility problems and can't join in the walk proper, you are still welcome to come just for the tea and cakes at 12noon.

There is no need to book, just turn up on the day. Wear stout shoes for walking.



Wing Commander Guy Gibson, centre left, who led the daring Dambuster Raid during the Second World War, is among the fallen servicemen commemorated on a Tovil war memorial.