

Valley Conservation Society



doing nothing is not an option

Members' newsletter No 194

We are a non-political organisation

June 2025

Join us for a picnic

We would like to invite you to join us for our Summer Picnic, to be held in the grounds of The Manor at Hayle Place on

Saturday, July 12

This event replaces our regular summer barbecue this year.

Members are invited to bring their own picnics, tables, chairs or rugs, for a community feast in the beautiful grounds of The Manor.

There will be a welcoming glass of Pimms for everyone and music from DJ Palvo.

The event runs from 4pm till 9pm.

Free teas and coffees will also be available, but guests may prefer to bring their own alcoholic beverages.

Tickets are on sale now to members and their guests at £5 each. (Children under 12 free).

The fee is to cover the cost of the DJ, portaloo hire and Pimms.

Members may also bring their own gazebos if they wish.

This is our first picnic event and we trust members will give us their support.

Parking will be in the adjacent field at Hayle Park. You may drop off passengers and equipment by the entrance to the garden, but please do not park in the circular driveway which is reserved for Manor residents. No dogs, please.

Order tickets from Alan on 07860 909903, or email a128smith@btinternet.com

Work Party

The Tuesday work party is staying busy under the leadership of Dennis Usmar.



Recently, the volunteers have spent several weeks restoring the Loose Valley Conservation Area Gateway sign in Cripple Street on behalf of Tovil Parish Council. The parish met the expenses.

We feel sure you'll agree it looks splendid!

You are welcome to join the work party on any Tuesday, starting at 10am at the Conservation Cabin in Cave Hill. Stay for as long or as little as you like.

Queries to Dennis on 07484 706537.



Join us for a night at the Opera



There are just six tickets left for our night at the opera with Italian tenor Yuro Sabatini on Sunday, **June 29**, at 7pm in the King George V Pavilion in Loose.

Tickets at £12.50, including free Prosecco and nibbles.

If you want to join us, please contact Alan on **07860 909903** ASAP.

For this special night, which is to celebrate the Society's 25th anniversary, we would like to have a lectern for Yuri to stand at, preferably wooden.

Can anyone help? Again, please phone Alan as above.



Calendar photos

This is just our regular reminder that we need members to submit photos of the Valley the whole year round for possible inclusion in our next VCS calendar. Please take landscape photos and email them to **a128smith@btinternet.com**

Victory In Europe

Our Spring Walk, timed to coincide with the 80th anniversary of VE Day this year – went well.

Members set off in two guided parties, led by Dennis Usmar and by John Robertson, and they stopped at Tovil's two war memorials, where we learnt a little of the lives of the servicemen whose sacrifices are recorded there.



The most famous name, of course, is that of Wing Commander Guy Gibson VC, a Tovil Scout, who led the Dambuster raid. The walkers were played a short audio recording of Gibson addressing the Tovil Scouts at their rally in 1943 shortly after his return from that mission.

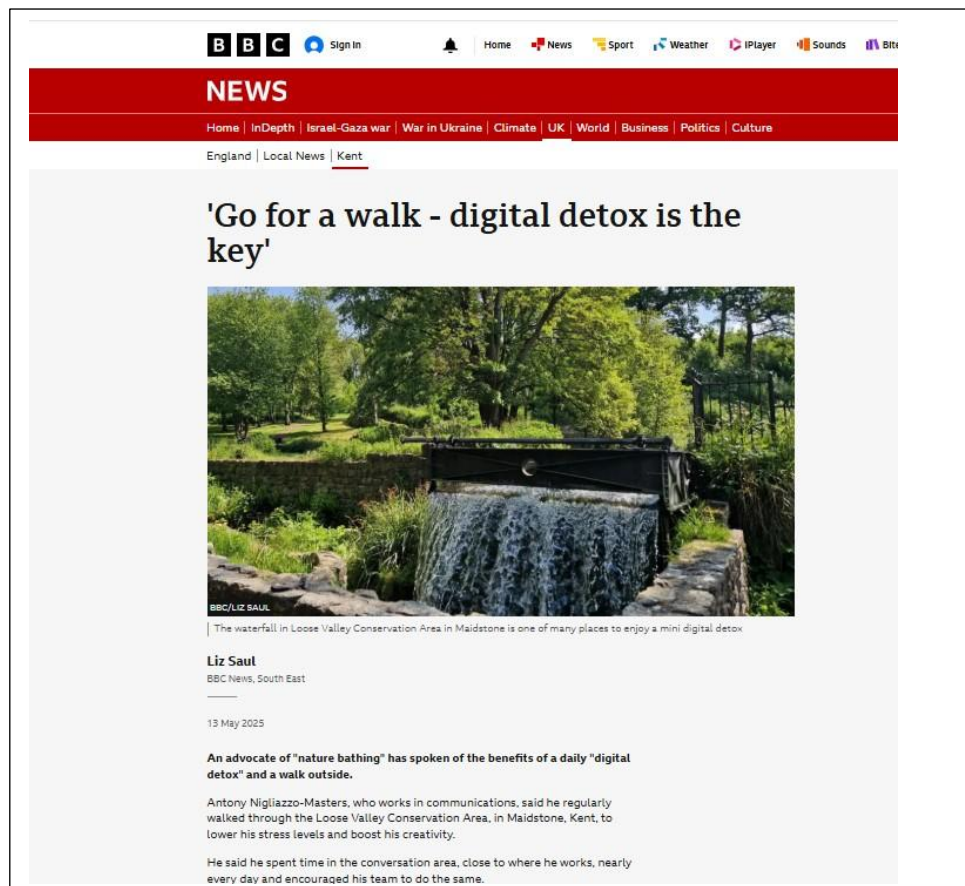
At the end of the walk, members were treated to tea and cakes – many made to wartime rationing recipes, which were surprisingly tasty as well as being very healthy (with reduced sugar and fat).

The event was sponsored by Tovil Parish Council, which enabled us to make a donation of £116.90 to the RAF Benevolent Fund in memory of Wing Commander Gibson and the other lost airmen.

Plug for the Valley

In May, we unexpectedly found ourselves featured in a BBC article about taking a “digital detox” by going for a walk in the countryside.

The story featured an interview with Antony Nigliazzo-Masters, a marketing manager with the Kent Fire and Rescue Service, who works at Godlands.



Mr Nigliazzo-Masters said he regularly brings his work team down to our land in the Valley for their mental health, and said the visits were good for stimulating people to come up with new ideas.

It's nice to be appreciated!

Roadworks

It would be almost impossible to conclude this newsletter without some mention of the roadworks on the Loose Road that have so dominated the lives of those who live in or near the Valley for the past – what, six weeks? It seemed like six months!

Initially, there were daily confrontations on Hayle Mill Road and on Stockett Lane as diverted drivers suddenly discovered there are places where two vehicles cannot pass simultaneously.



If only

As long as you weren't stuck in the jams, it could at times be quite amusing – it was incredible to learn just how many drivers actually can't reverse their vehicles!

However, we think in the last week or so, things had improved as people finally learnt that it was quicker in the end to hold back at a passing place than to press on regardless and become stuck.

One thing we've noticed just lately is that people have become far more appreciative if you do hang back at a passing spot. Now, nearly everyone waves their thanks and some actually smile. Perhaps, it is true that every cloud has a silver lining!

Finally some good news!

We are delighted to report that the long-awaited appeal decision on the former cricket field at Hayle Place is in. The Government planning inspector has **dismissed** the application to build nine luxury homes on the land to the right of the entrance way to Hayle Place.

He said the site was not a suitable location for housing, having regard to development plan policy and accessibility to services and facilities. He said that the proposal failed to preserve or enhance the setting of the nearby listed building and the character or appearance of the Loose Valley Conservation Area.

He said it had not been satisfactorily demonstrated that the proposal would not have a harmful effect on the protected trees and that it did not make adequate provision for affordable housing (there was none).

Altogether a pretty comprehensive rejection – validating the Society's objections.