

Valley Conservation Society

doing nothing is not an option



Members' newsletter No 197

We are a non-political organisation

November 2025

2026 calendars now available!



With plenty of room each day to make your important notes, these calendars feature 12 beautiful photos of the Valley submitted by our members. At just £10, they make the ideal Christmas present. Available from the Conservation Cabin, Cave Hill, on Tuesday mornings (see any work party member), or email a128smith@btinternet.com or call 07860 909903.

Join us for Devilled Eggs!

Tickets are now on sale for our November theatre production.

The Black Liver Theatre Company will give us a night of songs, sketches, verse and comedy as they take us behind the scenes of The Dakota, a seaside B&B, and give us a glimpse into the lives of the unusual characters that reside there.

The event is sponsored by the Applause Rural Touring Theatre project, which enables groups like our own to promote professional theatre nights that would otherwise be far beyond our purse-strings.



Tickets are £15, which includes **FREE** wine or juice during the interval.

On sale now from Alan on 07860 909903, or email a128smith@btinternet.com

Quiz Night - report

John Robertson had all the answers when it came to our Quiz Night in October.

Our quizmaster had the six competing teams alternately scratching their heads in exasperation or beaming with delight if they instantly knew the answer, as they tackled a range of questions from flags of the world to book titles. Surprisingly, the most difficult task was deciding whether the names that John gave us were of a type of cheese or a service station!

With plenty of good-natured banter between the teams, an enjoyable night was had by all.

The evening, which included a Chinese raffle, raised £150.50 for the Society.

Thanks, John, and thanks also to your able assistant, Elaine.

Traffic calming

With the current five-week closure of Loose Road for gas main repairs, the traffic situation through the Loose Valley has, of course, got even worse.

Even though there are signs in place warning that the Valley is unsuitable as a diversion route, and even though SGN has “spotters” sitting at each end with the task of stopping HGVs from turning into the road, nevertheless, there have been frequent instances when the road has become completely jammed, with the police called on at least one occasion.

Residents in Hayle Mill have suffered damage to their gutters and fencing as traffic has clipped them, as it squeezes in too tightly in an attempt to get past.

And residents and pedestrians have been treated to some ripe language as drivers argue over who should give way!

We mentioned in our last newsletter how, even before the closure, the Society was intending to look into traffic-calming measures to reduce the volume and speed of traffic through the Valley.

A committee of 13 volunteers has now been set up, which has split into groups to investigate the pros and cons of the various solutions previously suggested by members in our brief survey.

They are looking at road closure, pinch-points, a 20mph speed limit, and assorted other smaller ideas that might nevertheless help, such as better signage, cutting back roadside vegetation and having a painted centre line on the bend at the top of Teasaucer Hill.

In addition, two members, Eileen Lewis and Tony Hemsted, were interviewed on TV on the subject by kmtv. The news bulletin can be viewed here: <https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x9smgp4>

Work Party



No matter what the traffic situation, our work party members are out in the Valley every Tuesday, beavering away to ensure it looks good.

Recently, the volunteers have been repointing the lime mortar in the retaining wall at Crisbrook Meadow.

They have also had their Autumn tidy-up, reducing the height of the hedge by the Cabin and cutting back vegetation on the bank by Crisbrook Cottages.

The group has also been strimming an area in Crisbrook Meadow and clearing the bank below Mount Ararat, ready for next year's project – to create a wildflower meadow.

Elsewhere, Tovil Parish Council finds itself currently without a grounds maintenance contractor.

The work party has offered to help by cutting back the undergrowth in the historic Anabaptist Burial Ground (in Burial Ground Lane) as part of our wider community work.

The work party welcomes new faces. Just turn up on any Tuesday at 10am at the Conservation Cabin.

Inquiries about the work party to the group leader Dennis Usmar on 07484 706537.

Repair Café

Our colleagues at **Carbon Action Tovil** (CAT) are hosting another Repair Café at the YMCA Community Hall in Barfreston Close Tovil, ME15 6FG.

It is an opportunity for you to take along any broken or damaged items, where the Repair Café experts will do their best to fix them. There is also a café offering tea, cakes and sandwiches.

The café is on **Saturday, November 8**, from 1pm till 4pm, (last repairs accepted at 3.30pm).

This event is entirely free, but currently, the costs are being covered by the volunteers. Any donations on the day would be greatly appreciated. You don't have to live in Tovil. All welcome!