

Valley Conservation Society



doing nothing is not an option

Members' newsletter No 201

We are a non-political organisation

April 2026

Reminder of AGM

Please make the effort to join us for our AGM.

This year it is to be held in the afternoon with a 2pm start at the **King George V Pavilion** in Walnut Tree Lane, Loose (postcode ME15 9RG).

Saturday, April 18

As well as the usual reports, you will be able to learn about the activities of two new groups – the **traffic calming committee** who have been looking at how to reduce/slow/ban traffic through the Loose Valley, and **Carbon Action Tovil**, who have run a number of successful Repair Cafes in Tovil, and whose next event is a free sewing skills workshop on April 25.

The meeting will include the election of a new committee. To vote, you must be a fully-paid-up member. But you can join/renew your membership at the door. The subscription is still only £2 a year. Cash only please, no cheques.

Any queries, please contact the Secretary, Alan Smith, at Bockingford House, Cripple Street, Maidstone, ME15 6DN, or email a128smith@btinternet.com

If you are uncertain whether you have paid your dues for 2026, check with the membership secretary, Jonathan Leeson, on VCSMembership@btinternet.com

If you are interested in joining the sewing skills workshop, contact Eileen Lewis at eileenmlewis@sky.com

Quiz night

Our quiz night on March 21 was a great success. Eight teams took part, with 44 people attending. A lot of fun was had and the event made a profit of £291.76 for the society. Our thanks to John and Elaine Robertson for organising the quiz.



One of the raffle prizes on the night was a bird box made by the work party. It was won by Claire Faulkner, whose husband, Nathan, erected it the next day. To their delight, it had an occupant that same day!



Opera – new date!

We have encountered a problem with our Opera Night.

We had booked Italian tenor **Yuri Sabatini** to sing for us at the King George V Pavilion on Sunday, June 14. But we have discovered that there is a funfair on the playing field that day.

So we have been obliged to alter the date.

The event will now take place a week later on **Sunday, June 21**, still at the KGV pavilion.

Tickets are available at £15 per person, which will include free sparkling wine and nibbles. A great night out!



Sunday, June 21
Starting at 7pm.

We had already sold 34 tickets, before we were forced to make the change of date. If you have bought a ticket, but can't attend on the new date, please accept our apologies and contact Alan for a full refund.

Tickets are available from Alan on **07860 909903 or **a128smith@btinternet.com****

Loose Bowls Club

Our friends at the Loose Bowls Club are just starting their new season and are always keen to welcome new faces.

They are offering Valley Conservation members the chance to go along to the club on the Loose Road (postcode ME15 9UA) and try the game for free on one of their open mornings on Friday, May 8; Tuesday, May 12, or Thursday, May 14, all between 10am and noon.

There will be free refreshments too! For further information, contact Keith Wright on **01622 743159**.

Calendar

We are delighted to report that sales of our 2026 calendars made a profit of £180 for the Society.

We still have a handful left over, and they will be available at the AGM for a donation, so bring some cash!

We are now busy collecting photos from this year to illustrate our 2027 calendar. Horizontal shots required. Most mobile phones take photos of a good enough quality, no need to invest in special kit

Please send your images to a128smith@btinternet.com with details of when and where they were taken, and your name.

Parish Meetings

Loose have held their annual parish meeting, but here is a reminder that the Tovil annual parish meeting is still to come on Monday, April 27, at 6pm, in the Tovil Workingmen's Club in Hearne Court Road (postcode ME16 6QS). There's free wine and nibbles.

There will be presentations from the Campaign to Protect Rural England, from Jane Holman on behalf of the Society, and from Tom Bartlett on the work of the traffic calming group.

All welcome!

Work Party



The Tuesday work party has been busy preparing our new wildflower area.

New volunteers are always welcome. Meet at the Conservation Cabin at 10am.