

Valley Conservation Society

doing nothing is not an option



Members' newsletter No 203

We are a non-political organisation

July 2026

Ceilidh tickets on sale now

There are just two weeks before our summer event – an open-air ceilidh in the grounds of The Manor at Hayle Place.

This will be a first for us – and we are really looking forward to it!

Music will be from Abby's Ceilidh Band, and their caller will tell us exactly what to do and will run through the steps each time, so there's no need to worry if you've never been to a ceilidh before. They're great fun – and the kids can join in too!

To prove we are not completely behind the times, we are for the first time also offering an online booking system for tickets.

Scanning the QR code below will take you to the right place.



Tickets are £10 for adults and over 14s. Accompanied under-14s are free. See overleaf for details.

But if doing anything online makes the hair on the back of your neck bristle, you can still call Alan for tickets on 07860 909903 and pay cash in the old-fashioned way.



VALLEY
CONSERVATION SOCIETY

SUMMER BARN DANCE

⇒ SATURDAY, 18 JULY 2026 ⇐

Join us for an open-air celebration
featuring live music from

Abby's Ceilidh Band!

We're returning to the wonderful
grounds of Hayle Place Manor House
for an open-air celebration!



TIME:
Gates open 3pm |
Dancing 4pm – 7pm



TICKETS:
£10
(Under 14s FREE)



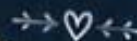
FOOD & DRINK:
BYO picnic, drinks,
and seating
(no refreshments
provided on-site).



Bring your chairs and
blankets for a fantastic
afternoon of music and
community spirit in the
manor grounds.

*We'll see you on the
dance floor!*

LIVE MUSIC
FROM
*Abby's
Ceilidh Band!*



TICKETS – AVAILABLE FROM ALAN:



a128smith@btinternet.com

or



07860 909903



The Big Walk Out

The Society joined in with the Maidstone Council-organised Big Day Out events on Saturday, June 13, with our own Big Walk Out.

Two parties of visitors were taken on a guided tour around the Valley, taking in land owned by the Loose Amenities Association, the Valley Conservation Society and Hayle Park Nature Reserve, and finishing at The Manor in Hayle Place for tea and cakes.

On the way, we stopped at Bockingford to admire the new information board, which had been installed by Tovil Parish Council only the day before.

Thanks to sponsorship from the parish council and to generous donations from the walkers, the event raised £47 for the Society's funds.



The new history board at Bockingford

Hayle Park Nature Reserve AGM

The Society owns one-third of Hayle Park Nature Reserve, although it is administered by a separate Trust. It is the reserve's AGM on Tuesday, 14th July. The meeting is open to the public for any questions or ideas. Meet at The Barn off Fieldfare Drive (postcode ME15 6XL) at 6.30pm. The meeting will be held outside. All welcome.

Ragstone walls and the work party



At the end of May, the work party enjoyed a day out in sunny Loose.

At the request of Loose Parish Council, they repointed and repaired ragstone walls around Brooks Field.

Work party leader Dennis Usmar said: "It actually made a pleasant change to work somewhere else, and we like to help out when we can."

The parish council was so delighted with their efforts that they made a £350 donation to the Society!

It's fair to say though, that at the time, the work party did not know they were shortly to have their own wall repair to attend to.

On Saturday, June 13, part of the wall in the upper section of Crisbrook Meadow collapsed, with what one earwitness described as a noise like a volcano. We hasten to say this was not the same wall as the work party had rebuilt a few years ago, which still looks pristine.

The collapsed wall has now been fully restored.

The work party is always keen to attract new volunteers. Just drop in to the Conservation Cabin on any Tuesday at 10am. Stay for an hour or all day. It's up to you!



Disaster!



Disaster averted!

Traffic survey

Our traffic calming group have prepared a residents' survey and have begun calling on residents in the Lower Loose Valley seeking their views on the best way to approach traffic calming. We look forward to the results!

Opera Night

Our **Night at the Opera**, with Italian tenor Yuri Sabatini, at the KGV Pavilion in Loose on Sunday, June 21, was a huge success.

The event was sold out. Patrons were able to enjoy not only Yuri's beautiful voice, but also a delicious buffet washed down with plenty of Prosecco!



Yuri in full voice

The evening raised £300 for the Society as well as attracting half a dozen new members.

Quiz Night – Friday, October 23

Tickets are now on sale for our Quiz Night which we will be holding jointly with the Tovil Repair Café group. This venue will be the Tovil Workingmen's Club, which has recently been renamed the Tovil Social Club, in Hearne Court, Tovil. Postcode ME15 6QS.

Peaj Jarvis will be the quiz master. We are looking for teams of six, with members invited to bring their own snacks. There is a subsidised bar at the club, so on this occasion, please do **not** bring your own booze.

Entry is £5 per person. Tickets from Alan on 07860 909903. Due to club rules, we will need to know in advance the names of your team members, please.

Catapults

Should members spot hooligans with catapults firing at either wildlife or property in the Valley, we urge you to phone 999. Both are offences. Some councils have introduced Public Space Protection Orders to make even the carrying of a catapult illegal. Hopefully, MBC will follow suit soon.