



MALAGO VALLEY CONSERVATION GROUP

NEWSLETTER

No. 20
January
1998

THERE ARE TWO IMPORTANT ITEMS on which there is excellent progress to report. If all continues to go well then 1998 will be marked by the achievement of some major milestones in safeguarding and improving the environment in south west Bristol.

On the **Conservation Area** I described in the last *Newsletter* how the boundaries being proposed by the City Council officers left out the post-1920s built-up areas which we had included in our original paper and also most of the open spaces. Highridge Common was separate from Bishopsworth 'village'. Both the Committee and all the members we asked at meetings were particularly keen to see as much open space as possible included.

In December, Anton and I met Robin Smyth (City Council) and Chris Smith (English Heritage) at Robin's invitation and we made out the case for the importance of the Malago Valley setting to historic Bishopsworth and also pointed out that Highridge Common originally extended down to the 'Elm Tree'. Our words did not fall on deaf ears. We have now received revised proposals which include all of Manor Woods, the Malago Valley south through Witherwood and the part of Highridge Road and King Georges Road which reunite Highridge Common and the rest of the Conservation Area. We are very grateful to Robin and Chris for their sympathetic hearing and we look forward to seeing the proposals go before long to the Council's Planning Committee.

On **Manor Woods** we had late news last time that the 'Rivers Initiative' sponsored by Allied-Domecq would be going ahead. An advert has now appeared for the appointment of a Project Officer. The advert is reproduced on page 2; it would be excellent if there is anyone local who would be interested.

ANDRÉ COUTANCHE

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A.G.M AND BIRTHDAY PARTY

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of Malago Valley Conservation Group will be held on Tuesday 17 February at St Peter's Rooms, Church Road, Bishopsworth, starting at 7.30pm. The Officers and Committee members retire each year but are eligible for re-election. The current Officers have agreed to continue if elected, except for the Hon. Secretary who is standing down. See the back page for the names of the current Committee members and Officers.

New volunteers for the Committee would be very welcome. Nominations for either Officers or Committee members should be made to the Hon. Secretary in writing at least 14 days before the A.G.M. They must be supported by a seconder and the consent of the proposed nominee must first have been obtained. The Hon. Secretary is Chris Lillington and her address is 23 Grange Road, Bishopsworth, Bristol, BS13 8TE (tel. 964 7578).

We especially need a new Hon. Secretary. This is not a particularly onerous job; it consists essentially of taking the notes of committee meetings. (Other secretarial tasks such as writing letters are handled by individual committee members). If you think you could help as Secretary, please contact Chris, the current secretary, or André (Chairman) to discuss it.

The format for the meeting will be the same as last year. Short reports from a variety of people on our activities during the year will be followed by a break for wine/fruit juice and cheese. Our special guest speaker will be Cllr Helen Holland, Chair of the City Council Planning Committee (see also the Programme on page 7). We shall also be making the first presentations of our new annual environmental awards.

CHRIS LILLINGTON

Allied Domecq/Groundwork -
South Bristol Rivers Initiative

Project Worker

Motivated and experienced person required to work with local communities and project manage environmental improvements to water courses and their surroundings in the Malago Vale.

Salary £12-14,000 pro rata
Initially a sixth month contract, 2/3 days per week.
There is potential for the post to be extended and become full time.

Application forms from:
Western Partnership for Sustainable Development
Tel: 0117 - 930 0032
Closing date Friday 23rd January 1998

This is the advert for the Project Worker job vacancy mentioned on page 1. If you or anyone you know are interested, apply quickly.

THE CHRISTMAS PARTY

AN ICY WIND from Siberia was probably the reason for a lower turn-out at the Christmas Party than last year. However, nineteen members braved the elements and the atmosphere inside the hall was warm and inviting with hot mulled wine to greet people as they arrived.

The theme of the party was insects and creepy-crawlies, and for the first part of the evening members were invited to try their hands at unscrambling insect anagrams around the walls. The wine obviously didn't make people FARGONDLY (dragonfly) as there were five contenders with a perfect score. This necessitated a tie-breaker to decide the winner. The main event of the evening was a Beetle Drive. Stag Beatles competed against Ladybirds in a hilarious game. Lola just couldn't work out the progression and we kept ending up with the same partners; this however just added to the fun.

The Wassail Bowl was paraded in and we accompanied it with a very tuneful rendition of the Wassail Song. We then shared the delicious Wassail Cup as an accompaniment to the buffet supper. There was a lovely assortment of food and Tony received much praise for the sweet he made.

I am sure everyone would join me in thanking Lola for all her hard work in organising the evening and Marie Jo for turning her hand, at a moment's notice, to producing the mulled wine. It was a very enjoyable evening.

BERYL HEATON

A FITTING CHANGE?

THERE IS A PLANNING APPLICATION for the former 'Robin Hood' Golf Centre at 5, The Parade, Bishopsworth (the block which was once a Gateway supermarket, at right angles to the block which includes the former Matties Restaurant). The application is for a change of use to 'a fitness centre, activity (weight training) and keep fit'.

A re-use of this derelict site would be welcome; let's hope it acts as a catalyst, if it goes ahead, for the re-use of the (separately owned) 'Matties' block.

1997 ACCOUNTS

HERE ARE THE 1997 ACCOUNTS which will be presented to the A.G.M. Last year we published the accounts in the *March Newsletter*, following the A.G.M., but the Committee thought it might help members to see them in advance. The next *Newsletter* will contain a report of the Group's activities during 1997.

Income	£	Expenditure	£
1997 Memberships	270.00	Printing	64.00
Functions	113.83	Function Expenses	111.40
Refreshments	10.45	Refreshments	26.17
Other Income	110.78	Hall Hire (7 meetings)	122.50
Building Society Interest	<u>1.66</u>	Postage	<u>13.60</u>
Total	<u>506.72</u>	Total	<u>337.67</u>

Excess of Income over Expenditure	<u>169.05</u>
Brought forward from 1994/95	<u>354.49</u>
Balance carried forward to 1997	<u>523.54</u>

Made up of:

Cash in Hand	96.06
Building Society Account	427.48

Detail of Function Income	£	Detail of Expenditure	£
Winter meeting raffle	20.80	Frog Litter Bin for Highridge	50.00
Flower/car boot sale	23.60	Dundry Church donation	15.00
Coffee Day/Sale	<u>69.43</u>	Flowers and Provision	19.00
	113.83	Permaculture expenses	5.00
		Plastic bags	2.40
Detail of Other Income	£	Hanging Basket Prizes	10.00
Donation	1.00	Insects expenses	<u>10.00</u>
Scenic Tour	4.00		111.40
Stream clean donation	5.00		
Car Boot Sale	17.35		
Treasure Hunt	2.00		
Sale of Produce	14.20		
Malago Society Open Day	15.35		
Visitors	1.50		
Sale of aluminium cans	<u>50.38</u>		
	110.78		

JOHN TAYLOR

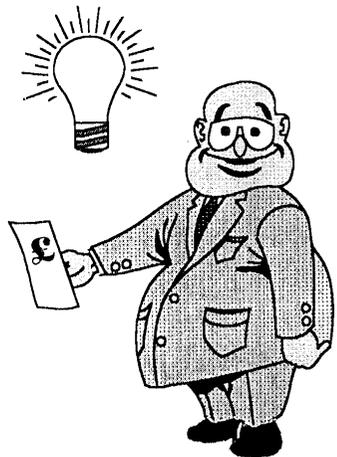
MALAGO VALLEY CREDIT UNION

THE MEETING on 20 November introduced what was evidently a new topic for those present: the idea of a *Credit Union*, and particularly the Malago Valley Credit Union which is in the process of being established. The M.V.C.U. is based at Withywood Church Centre and covers the same geographical area - Bedminster Down, Bishopsworth, Hartcliffe, Headley Park, Highridge and Withywood - that we do in M.V.C.G.

Some useful leaflets were handed out which summarise what a Credit Union is and how it works. Here are some of the main points:

- The Credit Union is a democratic financial co-operative owned and controlled by its own members.
- Credit Unions encourage their members to save regularly, however small the amount. They do this by operating friendly and accessible collection points at times and in places which are suitable for members.
- Loans are granted to members on the basis of their savings record and their capacity to repay. Repayment is through the same local collection points.
- Loans cost only 1% per month on the outstanding balance (12.68% A.P.R.).
- There are no hidden fees or costs involved in transactions with the credit union.
- Credit Unions are run by volunteers, from whom are elected the officers who give their time to see to the everyday running of the credit union. Any member is eligible for these positions.

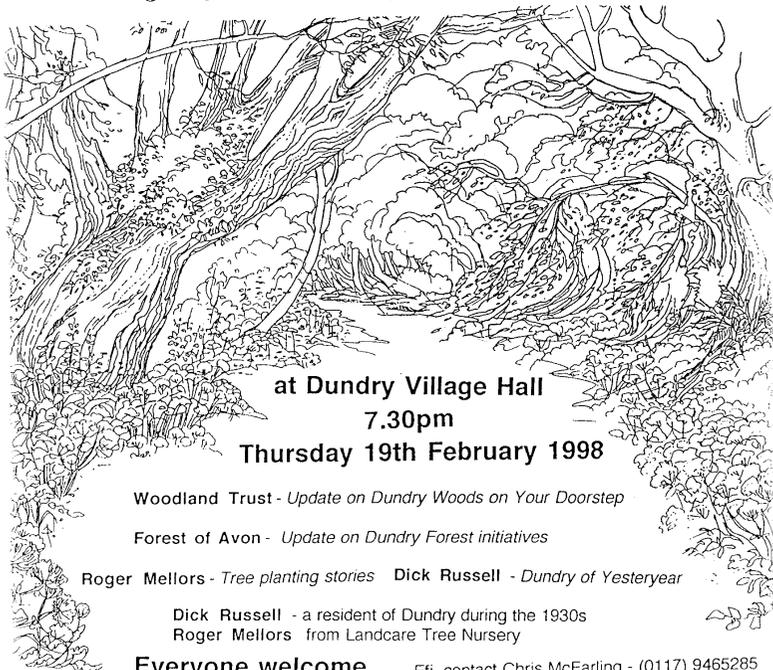
PICTURE THE
POSSIBILITIES..



If anyone would like a copy of the leaflet, I have some spares.

ANDRÉ COUTANCHE

Dundry Hill Group Tree Evening



at Dundry Village Hall
7.30pm
Thursday 19th February 1998

Woodland Trust - *Update on Dundry Woods on Your Doorstep*

Forest of Avon - *Update on Dundry Forest initiatives*

Roger Mellors - *Tree planting stories* Dick Russell - *Dundry of Yesteryear*

Dick Russell - a resident of Dundry during the 1930s
Roger Mellors from Landcare Tree Nursery

Everyone welcome. For contact Chris McFarling - (0117) 9465285

NATIONAL SPRING CLEAN

GET A GRIP ON LITTER

1-30 APRIL



A TIDY BRITAIN GROUP
ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVE

TIDY
BRITAIN
GROUP



PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS AND EVENTS

THE PROGRAMME of talks continues at St Peter's Rooms (side of St Peter's Church, Bishopsworth), starting at 7.30pm. Visitors are very welcome and will be asked to pay 50p towards the cost of room hire.

Tuesday 20 January: We start 1998 aiming high - with our eyes on the stars. JOHN MEACHAM of the Bristol Astronomical Society is our speaker, talking about the night sky, including a form of pollution we don't often think about - *Light Pollution*.

Monday 26 January: *Garbage Raid*. A return to Symes Avenue. Meet at the top of Symes at 3.30pm.

Tuesday 17 February: The *Annual General Meeting and Birthday Party*. See the detailed announcement on page 2. Our special guest speaker is Cllr Helen Holland who will describe the work of the City Council's Planning, Transport and Development Committee and bring us up to date with some of the current planning issues in south Bristol.

Monday 23 February: *Garbage Raid*. Meet at Bishopsworth Library at 3.30pm.

Thursday 19 February: A special *Tree Evening* put on by the DUNDRY HILL GROUP at 7.30pm at Dundry Village Hall. Speakers include DICK RUSSELL (who guided us around the Wildlife Trust's site at Folly Farm) and ROGER MELLORS. See the advert on the facing page.

Tuesday 17 March: CHRIS SPERRING of the HAWK AND OWL TRUST (details to be confirmed).

Monday 23 March: *Garbage Raid*. Meet at the 'Elm Tree' at 3.30pm.

Tuesday 21 April: MARY JAMES of Castle Farm, Bridgwater Road and National Farmers Union will talk to us about *Farming and the Environment*, including the Countryside Stewardship scheme.

The whole of April is National Spring Clean month. We shall try to do something special as our contribution. If anyone has any ideas, please let Anton or André know.

HAPPY NEW YEAR?

WELCOME TO 1998 and to Malago Valley Conservation Group's new subscription year. Yes, it's that time again when we want your money.

Not much money, though. Just £4 per household gets you six newsletters per year, a series of wide-ranging and interesting meetings and visits - and the warm glow that comes from helping to improve the environment in and around our part of Bristol.

If you joined the Group after 1 October 1997, your membership runs through to the end of 1998. For everyone else, though, it's time to fill in the membership renewal form you will find enclosed with this *Newsletter* and to send it off to our efficient Treasurer with your subscription. And if you know anyone else who may be interested in M.V.C.G., please encourage them to join and to get involved.

Malago Valley Conservation Group Committee Members

Chairman	André Coutanche	964 3106
Acting Vice-Chairman	Lola Hardingham	964 1116
Treasurer	John Taylor	964 2913

Other Members

Anton Bantock, Brenda Docherty, Richard Eddy, Beryl Heaton, Chris Lillington (*Committee Secretary*), Mary Sykes.

Co-opted Members

Peter Hall, Sue Walker, Cllr Bernard Chalmers, Cllr Terry Cleverley, Cllr Peter Crispin, Cllr Paul Walker (*All the City and County of Bristol councillors for Bedminster, Bishopsworth, Hartcliffe and Whitchurch Park wards have been invited to become co-opted Committee members*).

Newsletter edited by André Coutanche, 14 Queens Road, Bishopsworth, Bristol, BS13 8LB; telephone 964 3106. **Letters, articles and suggestions from readers are welcome.** The opinions expressed in this *Newsletter* do not necessarily represent those of Malago Valley Conservation Group.