

Dear Manor Woods Valley Supporter

1. July turned out to be a busy month for Manor Woods Valley Group. Highlights included:

- health and safety training for two of our members
- training in the use of battery-powered tools for three members
- three days training for three Manor Woods Valley Young Rangers
- a Young Ranger training day devoted pulling up the Himalayan Balsam along the banks of the Malago
- four guided tours of Manor Woods Valley (for students from St Mary Redcliffe and Temple School, for the Manor Woods Valley Young Rangers, for members of the South Bristol Garden Club and for members of the Malago Valley Conservation Group)
- a talk to members of the Zion Memories Cafe
- meetings with the council's Arboricultural officer to discuss coppicing of mature hazel trees in the ancient woodland and with the council's parks Operations Coordinator to discuss flailing of encroaching bramble in the wildflower meadow and riverbank..

2. August's second-Saturday-of-the-month volunteering session, on **Saturday 10th**, will see the beginning of our project to repair the Woodland Path. This will involve sawing wooden rails to size for the path edging and fixing them into the ground with wooden pegs. Please join us if you have an hour or two to spare' there will be tasks to suit all abilities. Meet at the Interceptor, where the Malago goes underground, at 10.30am. This is not a suitable activity for children.

3. On **Tuesday morning 13 August**, a small group of us will take our bimonthly gentle stroll through the nature reserve with a view to identifying future habitat management priorities, including winter woodland coppicing work. You're very welcome to join us, meet at the St Peters Rise entrance (behind Bishopsworth Library) at 10am.

4. On **Tuesday afternoon 13 August** three of us will be clearing the Orchard and Riverside paths using our newly acquired skills with battery powered trimmers and hedge cutters. We will need a couple of extra volunteers to stand guard in hi-viz vests: let me know if you are available for an hour or two.

5. On **Sunday 18 August**, we are working in partnership with Zion Community Space to run our annual Family Nature Workshop. See Zion's Facebook page for details.

6. On **Saturday morning 24 August**, GoodGym runners will join us to work on the repairs to the Woodland Path. They will help wheelbarrow crushed stone along the path to the steep flight of steps - you're welcome to join us from 10.30am, especially if you come with a wheelbarrow!

7. Finally, we've just had some very heartening news about our **Slow-worm** project. The results of this year's survey by an ecology consultancy company has concluded that there is now "an 'exceptional' population" in the orchard area and that "The local 'Friends Group', [MWVG], is doing an amazing job in cutting back bramble scrub." Details of the survey report will be posted on our website, www.manorwoodsvalley.org soon.

Please pass this email on to anyone you think may be interested and encourage them to sign up for these regular updates. If you know of anyone who doesn't use email, please print a paper copy for them if you can, many thanks. If you prefer not to receive these emails from Manor Woods Valley Group, please let me know.

Best wishes and thanks again for all your support

Martin

Manor Woods Valley Group