

**Manor Woods Valley Group**  
**Open Forum and Committee Meeting Number 4**  
**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March, 7 pm**  
**at Zion Community Space**

Present : Committee members Martin Grant, Peter Loy-Hancocks, Cheryl Loy-Hancocks, André Coutanche and 14 other members  
Apologies : Davina Blake and Bethan Grant

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Martin welcomed everyone, particularly people attending for the first time. Martin asked the members to consider joining the committee, in particular for people who can work with children, have fundraising experience, or anyone who would like to do Health and Safety training. We also need a Secretary as Cheryl will stand down at the Annual General Meeting in June.

**2. Environmental Emergencies Presentation and Presentation on the Malago**

Two interesting and informative presentations delivered by Peter Loy-Hancocks.

The first highlighted that Bristol is leading the nation in its response to the climate and ecological emergencies that we all face. The 'One City Climate Strategy' describes a pathway for Bristol to become carbon neutral and climate resilient by 2030 – a highly ambitious goal, 20 years ahead of that set by the UK Government. The presentation demonstrated how the atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> level was now very dramatically higher than at any time in the past 800,000 years, and described the effects that this was having on the environment.

Aspects of the ecological emergency were discussed, including consideration of the decline in well known species such as Polar Bears as well as locally occurring species such as House Sparrows and Glow-worms. This presentation ended on a more uplifting note, with a consideration of some species and groups such as the great whales, Red Kites, Ravens and bats that had increased in numbers in recent years. We also heard about the ecological success stories in Manor Woods Valley and measures that we can all take at home to improve the ecological environment in our gardens.

Peter's second presentation looked at the Malago, past, present and future. He talked about the origin of its name - unknown and probably unknowable, its changing course through human-made manipulation over the past seventy years, its water quality and cleanliness – generally improving and current pollution problems emanating from upstream combined sewage overflows. The range of wildlife using the Malago was discussed, as well as that that might be able to use it in the future, including Water Voles, White-clawed Crayfish and even Beavers! The presentation concluded with the premier of a short video 'Down the Malago', which was prepared by Peter as part of Bath Spa University research project in to people's relationships with local 'blue spaces' i.e. water.

## **Tea/Coffee Break**

### **3. Treasurer's Report**

Cheryl presented a brief overview of the Financial Statement of the Group covering the period December 2019 to March 2020, attached.

### **4. Planning Report**

André advised that there was nothing significant to report since the last meeting.

### **5. Friends of Bishopsworth Library**

Emma Moore provided an update on future events, in particular the Summer of Nature events proposed, commencing with a launch event at Zion of 22<sup>nd</sup> April.

### **6. Activities Since Last Meeting**

Martin provided an update on this, which included regular volunteer, Good Gym and South Bristol College work party groups – who worked mainly on woodland path maintenance, a Forest of Avon Trust woodland course, student projects, the wassail event, planting of eight more fruit trees, a winter wellbeing walk for the over 55's, battery powered tool work in the Orchard Triangle, attendance at events promoting volunteering in MWV and attending conferences.

### **7. Open Forum**

A question from the floor about the timescales for installing walk markers in MWV. Martin advised the estimated time to complete this will be 4-5 months.

Could MWVG approach Avon Wildlife Trust for funding? Peter thought this unlikely; however Martin noted that AWT already provides invaluable practical support to MWVG.

From the floor – what has MWVG has been asked to contribute to the Bristol Parks Forum with regards to the climate and ecological emergencies that have been declared in Bristol? Martin commented that the work being carried out by MWVG (and Bristol City Council Parks Team) in Manor Woods Valley is to be upheld as an example and encouragement to other friends groups and that the Bristol Parks Forum has asked us to prepare a presentation for its next meeting in May.

### **8. Minutes of Last Meeting**

No comments to note.

### **9. AOB**

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm.

Date of Next Meeting (AGM): Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2020, 7pm at Zion Community Space, Bishopsworth Road.

#### Agenda Item 4: Treasurer's Report

	<b>INCOME</b>	
May-19	Donation	£ 100.00
May-19	Transfer - Malago Valley Conservation Group	£ 760.00
May-19	Donation - Cash paid in	£ 23.04
Aug-19	Transfer - Malago Valley Conservation Group	£ 4,070.10
Sep-19	Donation - Cash in hand	£ 10.00
Oct-19	Donation in kind - timber for bird and bat boxes	£ 49.94
Nov-19	Transfer - Malago Valley Conservation Group	£ 2,500.00
Nov-19	Donation - South Bristol Gardening Club	£ 60.00
Jan-18	Donations – Wassail	£ 31.59
Jan-20	Donation - AM Marshall	£ 140.00
		<b>£ 7,744.67</b>

	<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	
May-19	Printing leaflets/flyers (Launch Event)	£ 55.61
Jun-19	Launch - Refreshments	£ 29.40
Jul-19	Bank charges	£ 0.80
Sep-19	Timber - Woodland Path Project	£ 191.14
Sep-19	Quarterly Meeting - Venue hire and Refreshments	£ 72.40
Sep-19	Bank charges	£ 0.60
Oct-19	Timber - bird and bat boxes	£ 49.94
Oct-19	Bank charges	£ 0.20
Oct-19	Nails, buckets, gloves	£ 50.19
Dec-19	Timber - Woodland Path Project	£ 320.29
Dec-19	Printer ink	£ 55.79
Dec-19	Buckets	£ 10.00
Dec-19	Quarterly Meeting - Venue hire and Refreshments	£ 76.60
Dec-19	Bank charges	£ 0.70
Jan-17	Juice & Wipes for Wassail	£ 4.62
Jan-20	Bank charges	£ 0.10
Jan-20	Equipment	£ 51.95
Jan-20	Fruit trees	£ 138.73
Feb-10	Ties for fruit trees	£ 7.99
Feb-20	Bank charges	£ 0.40
		<b>£ 1,117.45</b>
	Cash in Hand	£ 18.98
	Triodos Bank	£ 6,608.24
		<b>£ 6,627.22</b>

## Agenda Item 6: Report on Activities since the last meeting

**Manor Woods Valley Group Activities Plan** (based on proposals from the June 2019 launch meeting, edits since the last meeting in red)

High priority: important and do-able	Medium priority: important and waiting for someone to lead	Low priority: important but probably unrealistic at present
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Activity: Nature Conservation and Recovery	Progress	Outcome
Respond to the Climate and Ecological Emergency	On agenda for discussion at the Open Forum meeting on 10 March 2020. Agreed, following a request from Bristol Parks Forum, to contribute a citywide parks and green spaces response by May 2020	Bristol parks and green spaces groups are better equipped to contribute to nature recovery plans.
Continue to improve habitats	Volunteer work parties have continued in the Orchard, Rabbit Field and Triangle throughout 2019 and into 2020 on a regular basis; with support from Avon Wildlife Trust and GoodGym. Work has begun to create glades in Allotment Wood, with the help of the Forest of Avon Trust.	Exceptional population of Slow worms (see blog posts on website for Slow worm and butterfly survey reports)
Improve aquatic life of Malago	Bramble flailing in Sept '19 has increased light levels at southern end of river; suspected pollution incident reported to Environment Agency.	More light reaches the water
Continue eradication of non-native invasive weeds	Himalayan Balsam plants removed from river banks in July and August '19; Annual survey of Japanese Knotweed carried out by MWVG in Spring '19 and continues to be treated by Council.	Invasive weeds are under control
Create more glades by coppicing	Plan approved by BCC; work scheduled for new year, 2020. (see habitat improvement, above)	
Plant trees	8 fruit trees planted in Orchard in Spring '19; Meeting with BCC planned for 12 December to discuss planting proposals. A further 8 fruit trees were planted in February 2020.	16 trees planted and thriving
Continue to support student research studies	3 student projects currently underway in Oct/Nov '19. Projects completer and written reports are awaited.	Results should help inform works
Install bird, bat and bee boxes	6 bird boxes, 5 bat boxes installed November '19	More nesting & roosting opportunities
Reopen the Malago downstream of the Interceptor	It has been confirmed that a main sewer runs the length of the 'lost' Malago, and therefore re-opening of this length of the Malago can not happen; however 'greening' of this line with scrub and tree planting is desirable	Opportunities for green corridor being explored

Activity: Learning and Fun	Progress	Outcome
Harvest and juice fruit	40 kilos of Manor Woods Orchard apples sent to The Cotswold Fruit Co in Sept '19 for juicing; 9 bottles of juice delivered in Nov '19 and 9 bottles of cider expected in the spring '20. Potential or more juice and cider in '20 being explored. First ever Wassail held in January '20 with over 60 people attending. Apple Day celebration planned for October '20.	Apple juice produced.
Organise wildlife walks (owls, bats fungi)	Opportunities during '20 being explored. Over 20 people came on the guided walk for over 55s in February. Three walks are planned for May '20 as part of Bristol WalkFest.	
Establish Young Rangers Group	YR recruited and trained in August '19. City of Bristol College students are working on repairs to the Woodland Path.	It is hoped that some students may join the YR project as a result.
Organise 'green days' events	Opportunities during '20 being explored. Events being planned as part of the Summer of Nature initiative.	
Continue to wellbeing courses	Forest of Avon Trust courses are scheduled from Feb and May '20. In discussion with University of Bristol about wellbeing course for	

	students.	
Tackle fly tipping and continue litter picks	Fly tipping at Valley Road entrance reported and removed. Informal litter picking continues. <b>Litter picking event scheduled for 14/03/2020.</b>	Fly tipping remains a major concern.
Become more skilled	Training in Health and Safety completed by Davina and Peter in August '19; Training in battery powered tools completed by Davina, Martin and Peter in September '19; Training in Crowd funding completed by Martin in Oct '19; Training in restorative orchard pruning completed by Martin in November '19.	More MWVG volunteers able to manage work parties and undertake works.
Re-establish Geocaching	Re established in Sept '19 thanks to Holly	Completed
Establish youth groups (including gardening club)	In discussion (Nov/Dec '19) with Friends of Bishopsworth Library about bid to fund a young persons' nature/gardening group. <b>Funding bid was unsuccessful.</b>	
Organise treasure hunts	Awaiting support/offer to lead	
Make Hazel goods	Awaiting support/offer to lead	
Plant Willow crop	Awaiting support/offer to lead	
Continue to run guided tours	Wellbeing walk for over 55s planned for Feb '20	
Organise walks/talks on plants and folklore	Awaiting support/offer to lead	

Activity: Infrastructure	Progress	Outcome
Rebuild/repair the Woodland Path	Numerous volunteering events, including support from GoodGym and TSB staff, in Sept to Nov '19. <b>GoodGym and City of Bristol College are currently involved in helping with this project.</b>	Good progress being made
Establish a bridge/crossing downstream of the dam	Awaiting support/offer to lead.	
De-silt the pond	Awaiting support/offer to lead.	

Activity: Funding	Progress	Outcome
Investigate community funds (co-op, Sainsbury's, Police Commissioner's funds)	To be considered	
Use Community Payback	To be considered	
Investigate funding from local businesses	To be considered	
Organise plant sale/swap	Awaiting support/offer to lead	
Organise sponsored dog walk	Awaiting support/offer to lead	
Become a charity	To be considered. <b>Currently considered to be beyond our resources to take this on.</b>	

Activity: Community Relations	Progress	Outcome
Establish contact with Neighbourhood beat officer	Informal contact made	
Take part in Festival of Nature	On mailing list. <b>Planning to be more involved this year as part of the Summer of Nature initiative.</b>	
Work with schools	Some informal contacts made	
Liaise with small-holders, allotment groups, etc	Awaiting support/offer to lead	
Survey MWV users		

Activity: Communications	Progress	Outcome
Produce a calendar of activities and events	Monthly newsletter gives upcoming details of events for month ahead; website shows next upcoming event.	Newsletter, website and Facebook page include details

		Proposal to produce a MWVG calendar to be considered.	
	Continue to improve social media, website and poster use.	Thanks to Aidan for the re-design of the poster template.	New poster template in use
	Set up Mailchimp or similar	Awaiting support/offer to lead	
			10/03/2020