

**Manor Woods Valley Group
Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 15th September, 7 pm
held via Zoom**

Present: Committee members Martin Grant, Peter Loy-Hancocks, Cheryl Loy-Hancocks, André Coutanche. Apologies: Davina Blake

General Members: Margaret Swatton, Marie Jo Coutanche, Rachael Harvey, Jennie Scrivens, Maggie Evans, Ewaryd Rydlewska, Elaine Beckett, Paige Wyatt, Sally Guscott, Brendan Joyce, Tom Pearce, Sophie Thompson. Apologies: Angela James, Emma Moore, Lis Pibworth, Leah Cutts

1. Welcome, Introductions and Housekeeping

Martin opened the first AGM of the Manor Woods Valley Group (MWVG) welcomed everyone, ran through house-keeping matters and asked everyone's permission to record the meeting for the purpose of these minutes; the recording to be subsequently deleted.

2. A Celebration of Manor Woods Valley

An annual review of the year to June 2020 was presented by Peter supported by a series of slides. The review covered the woodland path, habitat management, wildlife, the new wildflower meadow, invasive weeds, litter picking, well being, learning, young rangers, events including the January Wassail and training. In all there were over 600 hours of volunteering time on site and over 300 hours 'behind the scenes' activity. The annual review is available on the website www.manorwoodsvalley.org

3. Keeping an Eye on Developments

A brief overview of the stage of planning of the Household Reuse and Recycling Centre (HRRRC) on Hartcliffe Way was given by André.

4. Spending Wisely – Treasurer's Report – see attached

Presented by Martin and included responses to questions from meeting attendees (see appendix 1 for treasurer's report).

5. Updating Constitution

Three relatively minor changes were proposed and agreed by the meeting attendees. The updated constitution is available on the website.

6. Election of Officers

Martin was nominated as Chair, proposed by Peter, seconded by Rachael. Davina was nominated as Treasurer, proposed by Martin, seconded by Tom. Sophie was nominated as Secretary, proposed by Martin and seconded by Peter.

All three were elected unanimously.

Peter to continue in the role of Vice Chair and Ecology Advisor, and Andre to continue as Planning Advisor. Neither of these roles required election by the AGM. Martin asked for anyone interested in joining the committee/organising group to get in touch with him.

7. Future Planning

Meetings to continue by Zoom for the foreseeable future.

8. Response to the Ongoing Climate Emergency

Martin referred to the Paper prepared for Bristol Parks Forum, which can be found on the website. The Paper has been very well-received.

9. Future Plans

Martin drew attention to the new self-guided walks leaflets which have just been launched and added to the website for download and use by all. Two more leaflets are still in production and will be added later. Sally suggested using QR codes and will provide more info to the group. Tom asked about leaflet distribution and Martin advised that it is hoped to print some leaflets and supply at local venues such as the library and Zion. Rachael asked if audio or alternative language versions are planned. Martin confirmed that there are currently no plans; however it may be a consideration for the future.

WhatsApp Groups are proving popular and successful for spontaneous small work party organisation.

Small (maximum of 6) organised Saturday group work is resuming with the help of Joe McKenna from ParkWork.

The priority activities list is constantly being updated (attached as appendix 2). The "One Tree Per Child" project is ongoing. We have commented on a development on St Peter's Rise in relation to making it more carbon-neutral.

Maggie offered to work with Sophie on research and surveys.

Peter informed the meeting about new ongoing work by students, i.e. bat, reptile and fish surveys which have started up in the past few months.

10. Any Other Business

Martin reported on matters raised by non-attendees.

- Concerns raised over broken glass, and asked people to be vigilant and dispose of any such items safely.
- Could the bench by the silted-up pond to be moved. MWVG to refer to BCC.
- Emma Moore has offered to produce a leaflet with reference to the seasons.

11. Minutes of Meeting of 10th March 2020


Presented and agreed.

12. Next Meeting Dates

Next Committee and Open Forum Meeting – 19:00 15th December 2020
2nd AGM – 19:00 15th June 2021

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm.

Appendix 1. Financial Report June 2019 to May 2020

		Financial Report	
Year end 2019-2020			
INCOME			
	Donation - Misc	£	100.00
	Transfer - Malago Valley Conservation Group	£	7,330.10
	Donation - Cash paid in	£	33.04
	Donation in kind - timber for bird and bat boxes	£	49.94
	Donation - South Bristol Gardening Club	£	60.00
	Donation - AM Marshall	£	140.00
	Donations - Wassail collection (held as cash in hand)		£31.59
			£ 7,744.67
EXPENDITURE			
	Printing	£	111.40
	Quarterly Meeting - Venue hire and Refreshments	£	253.60
	Bank charges	£	3.10
	Timber - Woodland Path Project	£	511.43
	Timber - bird and bat boxes	£	49.94
	Equipment	£	112.14
	Fruit trees	£	138.73
	Parkwork - 3 days	£	750.00
	Website Registration	£	51.00
	Juice and wipes for Wassail (from cash in hand)		£4.62
	Rabbits guards for fruit trees (from cash in hand)		£7.99
			£ 1,993.95
	Cash in Hand	£	-
	Triodos Bank		£ 5,750.72
			£ 5,750.72
BALANCE BY PROJECT			
	Income - Unrestricted	£	1,380.78
	Income - Ring Fenced Money - Orchard Project		561.27
	Income - Ring Fenced Money - Slow Worm Project		3320.1
	Income - Ring Fenced Money - Woodland Path		488.57
			£ 5,750.72

Appendix 2. Priority Activities List

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
--------------------------------------	--	---

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. Presented discussion papers (initial thinking paper and response paper) to two online meetings of the Bristol Parks Forum (BPF) in June and August. We hope to make a significant local contribution to Bristol's Ecological Emergency Strategy (due to be published in September '20).	Bristol parks and green spaces groups are better equipped to contribute to nature recovery plans. Our response document to the emergencies is available on our website and on BPF's website. Actions are included here.
Continue to improve habitats in MWV Contribute to local habitat connectivity Encourage adjacent and nearby property owners/occupiers to contribute to nature recovery	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. Due to Covid-19, all activities and events were suspended between mid-March and late June. In late June a flexible volunteering scheme was started which allows us to support individual, pairs and single household groups to volunteer. Work during July and August has focussed on improving the habitats in the orchard and orchard triangle. Students from UEA began reptile and bat surveys in August. Rachel has completed the annual butterfly survey, report will be available in September '20.	Exceptional population of Slow worms (see blog posts on website for Slow worm and butterfly survey reports). Observations confirm that Slow worms are migrating across the orchard triangle.
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. Himalayan Balsam plants removed from river banks in July and August '20. New area of Japanese Knotweed identified on edge of wildflower meadow and reported to the 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. Some of the newly planted fruit trees were vandalised in April '20. Further discussions held with BCC 'One tree per Child' project re tree planting in winter '20/21.	16 trees planted and thriving 8 frees remain and recovering from vandalism.
Continue to support student research studies	3 student projects currently underway in Oct/Nov '19. Projects complete and written reports are awaited. New student projects in 2020 have been cancelled due to pandemic. 20/21 projects paused by UoB due to pandemic.	Results should help inform works. Reports received.
Install bird, bat and bee boxes	6 bird boxes, 5 bat boxes installed November '19.	More nesting & roosting opportunities
Reopen the Malago	It has been confirmed that a main sewer runs the length of the 'lost'	Opportunities for green

downstream of the Interceptor	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	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 and cider 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. Three walk guides written by Peter and being designed by Aidan.	Walk guides to be made available on website and in print form on request.
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. Courses were suspended from March '20 due to pandemic and are due to resume in September. Included in our response to the environmental emergencies is a group objective to promote and use MWV for health benefit purposes.	
Tackle fly tipping and continue litter picks	Fly tipping at Valley Road entrance reported and removed. Informal litter picking continues. Litter picking event scheduled for 14/03/2020.	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. Funding bid was unsuccessful.	
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.	Feb '20 guided tour achieved.
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. GoodGym and City of Bristol College are currently involved in helping with this project. Scheduled to restart in September '20	Good progress being made
Promote carbon neutral energy use in new building developments in the vicinity of MWV	Commented on the planning application for a new residential building on St Peter's Rise.	
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	To be considered	

	Commissioner's funds)		
	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. Currently considered to be beyond our resources to take this on.	

Activity: Community Relations	Progress	Outcome
Establish contact with Neighbourhood beat officer	Informal contact made	
Take part in Festival of Nature	On mailing list. Planning to be more involved this year as part of the Summer of Nature initiative. Cancelled due to Covid-19.	
Work with schools	Some informal contacts made. Included in our response to the environmental emergencies is a group objective to promote and use MWV for educational purposes.	
Liaise with small-holders, allotment groups, etc	Awaiting support/offer to lead	
Survey MWV users	At design stage led by Sophie	

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. Proposal to produce a MWVG calendar to be considered.	Newsletter, website and Facebook page include details
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	
		15/09/2020