

**Manor Woods Valley Group**  
**Minutes of Annual General Meeting**  
**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2023, 19:00, Headley Park Church**

**Attendees:**

Committee members: Peter Loy-Hancocks, Martin Grant, Jay Croney

Other attendees: André Coutanche, Marie Jo Cautanche, Rachel Harvey, Cheryl Loy-Hancocks, Marian Green, Margaret Swatton, Helen Gray, Ross Cannell, Thomas Pearce, Jabe Croney

**Apologies:** Adriana Moraru, Maggie Evans, Clive Weston

**1. Welcome and introductions**

Peter welcomed everyone and reviewed the agenda.

He thanked those present for attending, and noted that the 'turn out' did not reflect the support that the group gets from volunteers in the field or from supporters on social media of the group's efforts.

**2. Minutes of last AGM (28 June 2022)**

No questions or corrections, all minutes agreed. There has been progress on most items included as 'Future plans' in the last AGM.

**3. Our money - treasurer's report Jun 20221 to May 2023 incl.**

**June 2022 Balance: £5484.22**

**Income June 2022 to June 2023: £358.03**

(All donations incl. wassail £128.53)

**Expenditure June 022 to June 2023: £1560.08**

(Tools/materials £181.13, Forest School fees £1000, venue hire£200.85, bank charges £2.70, calendars £175.10)

**June 2022 Balance: £4640.07**

**4. Elections of chair, secretary and treasurer**

- Peter is chair.
- Davina is treasurer.
- Adriana is secretary.

Margaret Swatton proposed that these people be confirmed in their respective roles, Rachael Harvey seconded the proposal. There was unanimous agreement with the confirmations.

**5. Highlights of 22/23**

Peter acknowledged the invaluable support given to Manor Woods Valley and the group by Bristol City Council Parks Services, ParkWork, Zion Community Space, Forest of Avon Trust, Bristol GoodGym, University of the West of England students, Your Park - Bristol and Bath and Bristol Parks Forum. He noted that we are especially grateful for the volunteering support of local residents. They have contributed a lot of time and effort in helping to maintain Manor Woods Valley for the benefit of wildlife and people, and for being good company and fun to be with.

Peter described the highlights of the last 12 months:

- There were 1047+ (750 local + 297 students) total hours of volunteering on site (equivalent to 141 person days) excluding surveys (down from 1700+). This was contributed by 69 volunteers (incl. 17 students) (down from 80+ total volunteers). There were 297+ hours of student volunteering (down from 711) contributed by 17 student (down from 31).
- The time was contributed during 50 volunteering work parties (incl. students) (down from 70+) including 17 Wednesday afternoon student work parties (down from 35).
- The group lead 13 guided walks (up from 10), including two as part of Bristol Walkfest 2023.
- The group has 1450+ Facebook followers (up from 1300+) and reached 5500+ people on Facebook. We now have 297 members (supporters on mailing list) (up from 250+).
- There have now been 30 fruit trees planted in Manor Woods Orchard since 2018, with 40 additional fruit trees planted across the site in 2023.
- We filled 20 bags with apples and received 96 bottles of apple juice made (up from 60) from the Cotswold Cider Company. 60 bottles of apple juice were delivered to the Withywood Food Bank (up from 30). Over 100 people attended the wassail in January this year, where the Hartcliffe and Withywood Choir entertained us. We ran our first Blossom Day event in late April.
- The cut grass from the Valley Heights meadow was raked and some wildflower seeds were sowed.
- The trees in Hope Wood are now in their 3<sup>rd</sup> year and look very well.
- There has been Further progress on the repairs of the Woodland Path with the help of ParkWork, UWE students and regular volunteers. Access into the orchard was further improved by widening and levelling the path.
- There was regular litter picking across the site, thanks to the dedicated informal litter pickers. Invasive species work continued with Peter surveying the Japanese knotweed and pulling Himalayan balsam.
- Clive has run a series of monthly mindful walking sessions through MWV.
- Ecological surveying continued. A Glow-worm survey revealed the continued presence of these enigmatic creatures. A detailed bat survey revealed the presence of 13 (or possibly 13) species using the site and the immediate environment. Butterfly surveys were conducted by Rachel. A winter bird survey was conducted.
- We have applied for a grant to plant c3000 native species bulbs in woodlands across the site, for the benefit of pollinators early in the year.
- Britain in bloom: Manor Woods Valley Group was again awarded an Outstanding award by the RHS Britain in Bloom. The assessor will revisit the site in 2023.
- Local planning: The planning application to build on the West Side of Novers Hill is still being considered by BCC.

## 6. Future plans

We will manage our groups going forward through meetings at Headley Park Church and/or Zion Community Space and Whatsapp. Peter shared hard copies of the action plan for 2023/2024.

We will:

- Continue to respond to the Climate and Ecological Emergencies.
- Maintain and improve wildlife habitat in MWV.
- Improve aquatic life of Malago.
- Continue eradication of non-native invasive weeds.
- Maintain new tree plantations (e.g. Hope Wood, Orchard, Butcher's Broom Spiny).
- Keep MWV clear of litter and fly-tipping.
- Respond to local development plans.

- Support health and wellbeing and social prescribing in MWV.
- Maintain and promote the exercise trail in MWV.
- Support student research studies and volunteering programmes.
- Harvest and juice fruit.
- Organise guided walks.
- Promote information about MWV and related events.
- Continue to seek to redesign and install new interpretation boards.

#### **7. Sharing ideas and concerns**

A general discussion about Manor Woods Valley took place, but no specific ideas came forward.

#### **8. Date and time of next meeting**

Annual Review/AGM – 10:30am, 22 June 2024 (tbc)