

Manor Woods Valley Group 8th Annual General Meeting 13-Jun-26

Meeting held in Manor Woods Valley

Attendees:

Committee members: Peter Loy-Hancocks, Martin Grant, Adriana Moraru, Tom Pearce

Other attendees: Eni, Julia, Jeremy, Kevin, Madeline, Jane, Margaret

Apologies: Maggie, Davina, Vicky

No	Topic																																													
1.	Statement by the retiring chair Tom welcomed everyone and shared the agenda. This year’s meeting was held in Manor Woods Valley. The topics on the agenda were discussed during the first part of the meeting. This was followed by a walk around the site. The meeting started with Tom’s statement. He has been the group’s chair for the past year and has decided to retire. Martin was elected as new chair of the group, see item 4. Tom reiterated that he would continue being the Lead Volunteer, but the group is always looking for more people to come on board, especially to do the ½ day Bristol City Council (BCC) Health & Safety (H&S) course and be qualified to lead volunteering sessions. Madeline highlighted that BCC has confirmed that the H&S training sessions will be held online as well starting from this autumn; she is looking to attend this year.																																													
2.	Minutes of last AGM on 14-Jun-25 Minutes agreed (proposed by Martin, seconded by Adriana). <i>Correction to previous minutes: The AGM held on 14-Jun-25 was the group’s 7th Annual General Meeting, although the minutes incorrectly refer to it as the “6th Annual General Meeting”.</i>																																													
3.	Our money – treasurer’s report <table><tr><th>Date</th><th>Description</th><th>Amount</th></tr><tr><td>Jul-25</td><td>Litter pickers</td><td>£ 57.97</td></tr><tr><td>Aug-25</td><td>Bank charges</td><td>£ 0.10</td></tr><tr><td>Oct-25</td><td>Venue hire</td><td>£ 15.00</td></tr><tr><td>Nov-25</td><td>Equipment</td><td>£ 21.91</td></tr><tr><td>Nov-25</td><td>Bank charges</td><td>£ 0.10</td></tr><tr><td>Nov-25</td><td>Storage shed</td><td>£ 840.00</td></tr><tr><td>Jan-26</td><td>Stationery and equipment</td><td>£ 65.13</td></tr><tr><td>Jan-26</td><td>Bank charges</td><td>£ 0.30</td></tr><tr><td>Feb-25</td><td>Room Hire</td><td>£ 15.00</td></tr><tr><td>Feb-25</td><td>Bank charges</td><td>£ 0.10</td></tr><tr><td>Feb-26</td><td>Equipment</td><td>£ 44.00</td></tr><tr><td>Mar-26</td><td>Bank charges</td><td>£ 0.10</td></tr><tr><td>May-26</td><td>Stationery</td><td>£ 89.93</td></tr><tr><td>May-26</td><td>Bank charges</td><td>£ 0.30</td></tr></table>	Date	Description	Amount	Jul-25	Litter pickers	£ 57.97	Aug-25	Bank charges	£ 0.10	Oct-25	Venue hire	£ 15.00	Nov-25	Equipment	£ 21.91	Nov-25	Bank charges	£ 0.10	Nov-25	Storage shed	£ 840.00	Jan-26	Stationery and equipment	£ 65.13	Jan-26	Bank charges	£ 0.30	Feb-25	Room Hire	£ 15.00	Feb-25	Bank charges	£ 0.10	Feb-26	Equipment	£ 44.00	Mar-26	Bank charges	£ 0.10	May-26	Stationery	£ 89.93	May-26	Bank charges	£ 0.30
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4.	Elections of chair, secretary and treasurer Peter formally nominated Martin as chair, seconded by Margaret. Martin was elected as chair of the MWVG. Davina and Adriana will continue in their respective roles, as treasurer and secretary.		
5.	Highlights of 25/26 This year was on a par with last year, but with fewer guided walks (due to personal commitments of main walk leader); however, there was lots of volunteering activity, and a decent apple harvest this year. This review gives only a flavour of our work over the past 12 months; for a more complete record see our Facebook page. Thanks for the support: We are enormously grateful to the many organisations that have supported us throughout the year with the activities and events summarised below: Bristol City Council Parks Services, Bristol Tree Forum, Forest of Avon Trust, Your Park Bristol, Bristol GoodGym, University of Bristol students, Bristol and Avon Rivers Trust (BART) and the Bristol Parks Forum. Your Park particularly assisted us by co-leading many volunteering sessions, thank you. As always, we are especially grateful for the volunteering support of local residents who have contributed a lot of time and effort in helping to maintain and improve Manor Woods Valley for the benefit of wildlife and people and are good company and fun to be with. Habitat Management: Manor Woods Valley remains probably one of the most biodiverse areas in Bristol (various woodland types, Manor Woods Orchard and other small areas of fruit trees, several different wildflower meadows and the Malago). Managing, and arguably, improving these habitats should be a priority, particularly in response to the ecological emergency. This year we again focussed on cutting back Brambles in Manor Woods Orchard, The Orchard Triangle and The Rabbit Field, and raking arisings from wildflower meadows. Flowers and Animals: We updated our annual butterfly report (see https://manorwoodsvally.org/get-involved/education_and_learning/research-projects/) and took part in a moth survey organised by the Bristol and District Moth Group. A report on the 'Moths of Manor Woods		

Valley' was published on our website. We also published a report on the bush-crickets and grasshoppers of Manor Woods Valley.

Orchard Activities:

We harvested about 600kg of apples and got back 96 bottles of juice from the Cotswold Fruit Company, half of which we donated to the Carpenter's Food Bank and the rest we drank during volunteering sessions.

Our January Wassail was well attended, with an estimated 75+ people attending – lower numbers than last year being due to the poor weather that was forecast – but didn't actually arrive. We were entertained by the Hartcliffe and Withywood Community Choir, and partook of our own apple juice, and apple cake.

The fruit trees planted over the past few years promise to crop well for the first time this year.

Non-native Invasive Weeds:

Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan Balsam are present in Manor Woods Valley. We passed the results of our annual survey of the former to the Parks Services, who treat it with herbicide. Comparison of the survey results over the past eight years show that there has been a reduction in this pernicious plant over that period. Each year we also remove any Himalayan Balsam that we find along the Malago. This invasive plant is now hard to find and will likely be eradicated in the very near future.

Litter Picking:

Manor Woods Valley is a relatively clean place to walk and play in and is a safer place for wildlife, thanks to the care taken by the vast majority of users of the nature reserve and a dedicated band of regular litter-pickers. We continue to supply free litter pickers to those who ask for them. This has proved a great success. Chairperson, Tom Pearce, ran a number of litter picking events during the year. Dog fouling and fly tipping continue to present health hazards to people and wildlife.

Wellbeing:

Our wellbeing co-ordinator, Clive Weston, has ran a series of 'quiet and thoughtful' walks throughout the year.

Thanks to funding received from Quartet's BYCA grant, regular Forest School sessions, led by **Jay Croney** of **Natural Networks**, were run in Manor Woods Valley throughout the year. Children were actively engaged in a variety of outdoor play and forest school activities, including, shelter building, adventure play, whittling, fire building and outdoor cooking and much more. These activities not only provided endless fun but also helped the children develop essential skills and a deeper connection with nature. Forest School is now run outside the accounts of Manor Woods Valley.

The new accessibility friendly barriers, funded by the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) have finally been installed by BCC.

Other Activities:

There was another session of tree planting, with 100 bareroot Oaks, 50 Hornbeams and 25 Crab Apples added to emergency planting in New Manor Wood. These were donated by the Bristol Tree Forum, to which we are very grateful. It is hoped that these trees will help to replace the Ash trees that are suffering from Ash Die-back disease.

2025-26 The Year in Numbers

26 survey visits (H Balsam (2), Butterflies (3), JKW (1), Riverfly (19), photo survey (1))
 20 total volunteering work parties (incl. single person occasions) – up from 18
 3 guided walks – down from 13
 1800 Facebook followers - up from 1700
 367 members (supporters on mailing list) – up from 331
 £15.65 – income (from wassail) – down from £48.80
 £3096.77 - bank balance start June 2026 down from 3886.06 bank balance end May 2025 (incl. £345.00 held on behalf of Hartcliffe and Dundry Wildlife Conservation Group)
 £1149.84 - expenditure – down from £2679.05
 96 bottles of apple juice made – up from 0
 48 bottles of apple juice delivered to Withywood Food Bank – up from 0
 75+ people attending wassail – down from 150+ (due to poor weather forecast)
 300 Crocus bulbs planted at St Peters Rise entrance
 100 Oak trees planted in New Manor Wood
 50 Hornbeams planted in New Manor Wood
 25 Crab Apples planted in New Manor Wood
 3 reports published (moths, butterflies and bush-crickets & grasshoppers)
 2 Forest Schools promoted and hosted
 5 events by others promoted (incl. Bristol Avon Rivers Trust work parties)
 2 entrance gates replaced by BCC

6. Future Plans

Date	Task	Responsible	Assistance
2026			
Jun/Jul/Aug	Butterfly Survey	Group Ecologist	Group/Public Volunteer
June	?Glowworm survey	Group Ecologist	Group/Public Volunteer
July	Path clearing	Lead Volunteer	Group Volunteer
July & August	Himalayan Balsam pull	Group Ecologist	Group/Public Volunteer
August	Vegetation management	Lead Volunteer	Group Volunteer
September	Bramble bashing	Lead Volunteer	Group Volunteer
Autumn/Winter	Raking Cut Meadows	Lead Volunteer	Group Volunteer
October	Apple Harvest	Lead Volunteer	Group Volunteer
November	Bramble bashing	Lead Volunteer	Group Volunteer
Nov-Jan	Bristol Uni projects	Peter	
December	Orchard prep for wassail	Lead Volunteer	Group Volunteer
Monthly	Riverfly Monitoring	Qualified Surveyor	Group/Public Volunteer
Occasional	Litter picking	Tom	Group Volunteer
Most months	Wellbeing walks	Clive	
Quarterly	Parks Forum Mtg	Chair	Group Volunteer
Quarterly	Committee Mtg	Chair	Secretary
Various	Ad hoc guided walks	Peter	

	winter to spring	Ad hoc tree planting	Lead Volunteer	Group Volunteer				
	all months	Communications	Martin	Group Volunteer				
	all months	co-ordinating activities	Chair	Group Volunteer				
	Occasionally	Representing MWVG at events	Chair	Group Volunteer				
	2027							
	January	Orchard prep for wassail	Lead Volunteer	Group Volunteer				
	January	Wassail	Lead Volunteer	Group Volunteer				
	February	Orchard triangle raking	Lead Volunteer	Group Volunteer				
	March	Rabbit Field raking	Lead Volunteer	Group Volunteer				
	April	Vegetation management	Lead Volunteer	Group Volunteer				
	May	JKW survey	Group Ecologist					
	May	Path clearance/Bramble bashing	Lead Volunteer	Group Volunteer				
	June	AGM	Chair	Secretary/Treasurer				
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Lead Volunteer = Trained/qualified MWVG member on a task-by-task basis as agreed by chair/committee Group Volunteer = Trained/qualified (if required) MWVG member on a task-by-task basis								

7.	Sharing ideas Margaret suggested re-advertising the wellbeing walks to help improve attendance. Madeline noted that the wellbeing walks sometimes clash with volunteering sessions and suggested reviewing the timing. Tom suggested displaying posters for volunteering sessions at Campus Pool or On the Hill.
8.	Date and time of next meeting June 2027 details TBC
9.	A walk around Manor Woods Valley