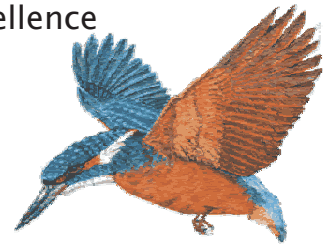


Valley Conservation Society

Holder of the KCC Award for Volunteering Excellence

www.valleyconservation.org.uk



MEMBERS NEWSLETTER No 112 April 2011

Early Spring !

Members should have by now have enjoyed the fine, dry and warm weather bringing magnificent arrays of blossom in the local orchards and the wonderful woodland flowers in abundance, watch out for early butterflies too !



Dry Stone Wall at Reeds Pond

The ongoing work repairing the existing damaged dry stone wall to the rear of Reeds pond is now nearing completion. The weekly work party are doing a magnificent job of dismantling and rebuilding the heavy stonework. Some stones are too heavy to lift and are being used as the foundations for the repaired wall. Most of the damage to the wall has been created by the overhanging trees and their roots. The tree trunks have been made a feature of the wall and already re-growth of the native flora is taking place.



Photo John Smith

“SPRING WALK”

The Society is hosting a Spring Walk at 11 am Saturday 7th May.

The walk will include:

A tour of the ponds.

The ducklings should still be in attendance.

The new fence and hedge plantings alongside the path to Mount Ararat.

The renovated stone wall to the rear of Reeds Pond.

The many saplings planted around the ponds

The recently unearthed foundations to the Mill.

The repairs to the sluice

Followed by a leisurely walk along the valley, terminating at the Chequers P.H.

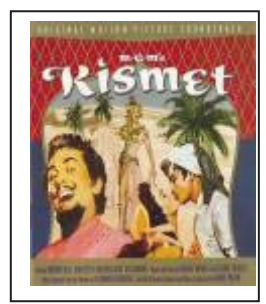
Meet at the Gate Opposite Crisbrook House, Cave Hill at 11 am

South Park Women’s Institute.



Photo Dennis Usmar

The recent fine weather encouraged a party of 24 members of the South Park W.I. to come along to a guided walk. The walk was hosted by Chairman Bryn Cornwell, Committee Members Jill Lee and Dennis Usmar. The members viewed the recent work carried out by the Society and made their way along the Valley inspecting the various Mill locations along the way to Loose Village. Several of the visitors joined the Valley Conservation Society as a result of this event and we would like to give them a warm welcome.



SONGS FROM THE SHOWS

Come and join us for an evening of songs from the Great Musicals.

The Kingfisher Singers – all 35 of them – accompanied by keyboards and guitar will perform hits from the shows of Lloyd Webber, Rogers and Hammerstein, Schonberg and many more.

Seating will be cabaret-style at tables and we invite you to bring your own alcoholic refreshments.

The ticket price of £10 includes a **fish and chip supper**, which will be served during the interval (around 8.30pm).



To assist with catering, tickets MUST be ordered in advance from Alan Smith on 01622 751926 or David Fleck on 758567.

Boughton Monchelsea Village Hall

Saturday, May 14

Show starts at 7.30pm

Tickets are £10 (includes fish and chips)

Children under 16 half price



Photo Dennis Usmar

Duckling Race

The annual spectacle of ducklings and goslings has appeared on our ponds. The Geese recently got lost on their trek to the River Medway and had to be assisted across Tovil Hill by member Dennis Usmar. The traffic had to be stopped on the hill while the concerned parents negotiated the difficult route down to the Medway through the houses and alongside the culverts. It would appear that several large clutches of Mallard chicks have been born this year and we hope they can avoid the eyes of the various predators; Gulls, Crows and Herons to name a few.

Funding

The Society has recently attempted unsuccessfully to obtain funding, from the Heritage Lottery Fund, to enlarge the current area under preservation and conservation within the Valley. The availability of land throughout the Loose Valley is a rare commodity and when pockets become available we would very much like to be in the position to apply for or have the funding accessible. This policy is being adopted by our partners in LVCAP. If members are aware of land becoming available or have ideas on funding these purchases please contact the Society.

Invasive Species No 7: Monk Parakeets.

Myiopsitta monachus



Monk Parakeets have established colonies in the home counties and although there are only 100 to 150 wild birds in the UK they and their Ring Necked cousins have been designated pests by DEFRA. With its green back, pale grey chest, pale orange beak and blue wing feathers the monk parakeet which grows to around 30cms (12") in length is a distinctive addition to UK's wildlife. Originally imported from the sub-tropical forests and grasslands of Bolivia and Brazil in South America, the bird's habit of building enormous communal nests on power cables has caused power failures where it has colonised in the U.S. The RSPCA has backed a controversial decision to cull these birds. However other animal charities are against saying that branding species as vermin or intruders is intolerant and selfish. What is your opinion ?

Diary Date: 2011 **BBQ** 23rd JULY

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Secretary Valley Conservation Society
01622 758567

VALLEY CONSERVATION SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2011

I/We should like to join/renew our membership with the Society:
(Please include your title and first name)

Name: 1)
2)
3)
4)

Address:
.....

Postcode.....Phone.....

E-mail:

Mobile:

To save printing and postage costs I would prefer to receive newsletters by e-mail:

Signature(s)
.....

Membership is £2 per year (or 50p for young people aged 14 to 18). Send your application form and your cheque made payable to Valley Conservation Society to:

**Colin Holman, Membership Secretary, Flat 3, The Manor,
Hayle Place, Cripple Street, MAIDSTONE, ME15 6DW**

I enclose a cheque/cash for £..... (Donations invited)

If you are able to play an active role in the Society, tick the box you are interested in:

Leaflet delivery Work parties Fund-raising

Office use only:

Issued: Donation: £ Membership Nos
