

# Valley Conservation Society



*doing nothing is not an option*

Members' newsletter No 153

We are a non-political organisation

July 2017

## Come to Our Barbecue This Saturday

*Complimentary copy  
for your interest*

The boys are all ready to serve you delightful burgers, sausages and chicken quarters at our barbecue this **Saturday (July 22)**.



The meat will be accompanied by a range of salads and pasta and followed by fresh locally grown strawberries and cream, home-made cakes and other desserts. Bring your own drinks.

There will be live music from the blues band The Darstardly Scoundrels and a chance to win super prizes on our reverse bingo game.

Vegetarian options are available if ordered in advance.

It takes place in the beautiful grounds of The Manor at Hayle Place, off Teasaucer Hill. The gates open at 3pm, with food served from 4pm. The barbecue will keep going until late in the evening. Parking is in an adjacent field, and please do NOT park in the circular driveway of The Manor, which is reserved for residents.

This event is a thank-you to our members and their guests. Accompanied children under 14 are free. Why not come and enjoy the sunshine?

*Tickets are £10 from Alan on 01622 751926 or email [a128smith@btinternet.com](mailto:a128smith@btinternet.com)*

## Cripple Street works

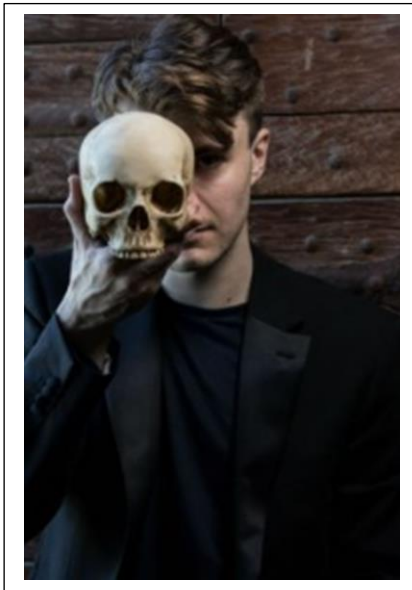
Almost inevitably the work to the highway at the bottom of Cripple Street by Millwood Homes has over-run. The developers who are building on Dimmock's Field, now say the road will stay closed until July 24 (so bear this in mind when travelling to the barbecue - come via the Tovil end of the valley).

On some days the road has even been closed to pedestrians. This should not have happened. Our ward councillor Brian Clark has intervened with KCC who have now instructed Millwood to keep pedestrian access open.

## Hamlet

*Is it nobler in the mind to suffer the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune, or to take arms against a sea of troubles and by opposing end them?*

You can find out by purchasing tickets for the outdoor production of Hamlet to be performed by the Changling Theatre Company in the grounds of Hillside at Hayle Place on the evening of **Friday, August 4**, starting at 7.30pm.



Tickets are £25 **per couple**, children are welcome, free of charge, but please only if they are old enough to sit and watch the show.

All the proceeds will be divided between the Valley Conservation Society and the Heart of Kent Hospice.

Order your tickets directly from the hosts, Claire and James Slaughter, on **0771 5113605** or **01622 761501**.

Hillside is the first property on the left as you enter Hayle Place from Teasaucer Hill.

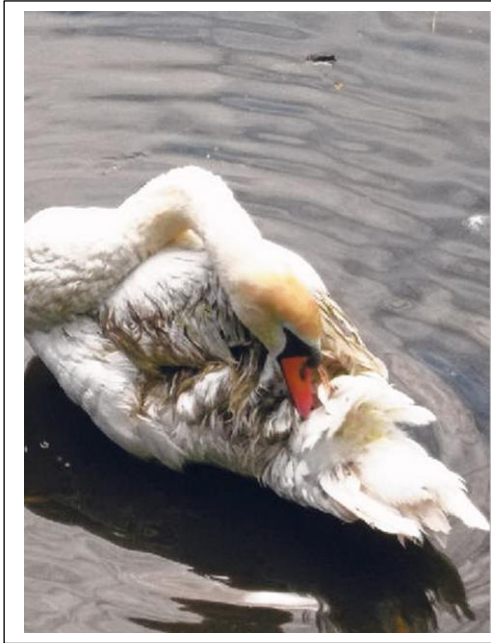
***Left: Hamlet (Alex Phelps) with Yorick***

## Speedwatch – help needed

The Society is a member of SMART (South Maidstone Action for Roads and Transport) – an umbrella organisation that includes NLRA, LAA and local councillors, who look at traffic issues around the area.

SMART is considering setting up a Speedwatch team, supported by the police and with full training given. Before proceeding, it needs to know that there will be sufficient volunteers to man the camera. If you are willing to give some time helping to reduce speeding on our roads, please contact the chairman, Sean Carter, on **01622 672667**.

# Fishermen's wall of shame



Residents at Hayle Mill had to call for help from Swan and Friends Bird Rescue after oil was poured over the back of the female of the pair of swans on their pond.

They are convinced the attack was carried out by a fisherman who had earlier told them: "I'll come back and you'll see what I can do" after they told him to stop fishing.

The man is extremely aggressive and threatening and his behaviour has been reported to the police. He is in his late 20s, tall with fair hair, and often accompanied by a young woman and a child.

The swan rescue team discovered that as well as the oil, both the pen and cob swans had a fish hook lodged in their bills.

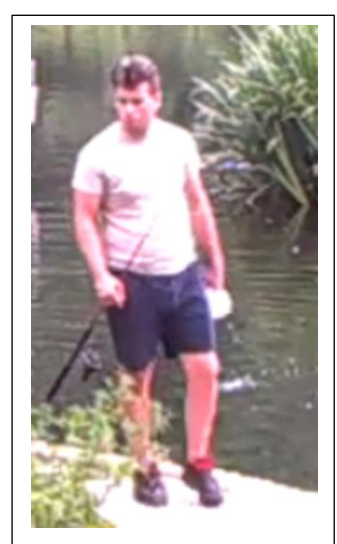
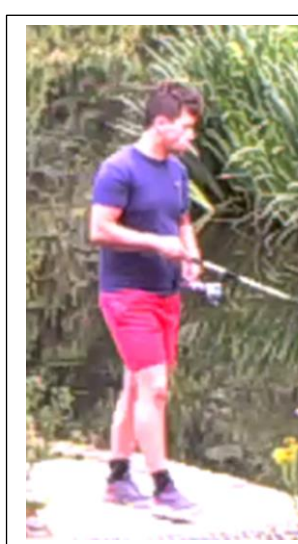
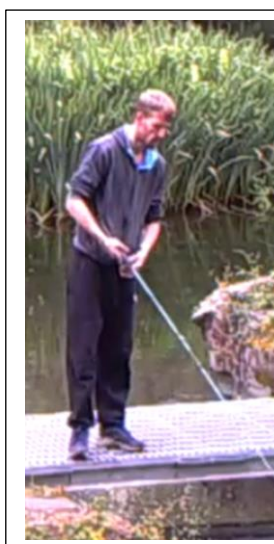
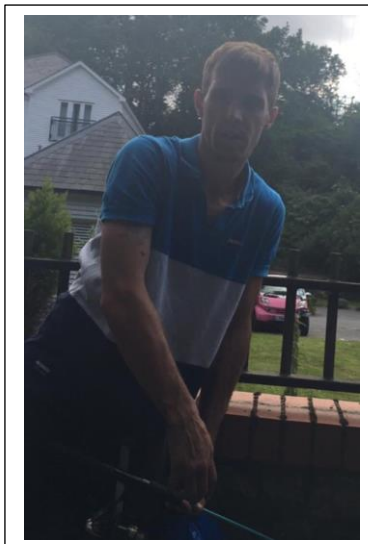
A vast quantity of discarded fishing line and hooks was recovered from the pond.

The incident follows a series of clashes with fishermen on our own ponds at Lower Crisbrook and Reeds ponds, where one of our own volunteers was threatened.

Fishing is NOT allowed in any of the ponds in the valley.

If you can help identify the fishermen in these pictures please let us know so that we may pass their details to the police.

Or you can call officers directly on 01622 604111, quoting crime reference YY/017908/17.





# Work Party

The Tuesday work party have made fantastic progress rebuilding the ragstone wall below Mount Ararat.



The regular crew were recently joined by particle physics student Thomas Smith, home on leave for the summer. He said: "I really enjoyed it – they're a great bunch. And I even learnt some new words!"

If you could lend a hand, either for a few hours or all day, just turn up at the Conservation Cabin at 10am, or call our chairman Bryn Cornwell for details on 01622 741926.



*The work party take a well-earned break*

## Tovil fete

Tovil Parish Council will hold its summer fete on Sunday, August 13, from 1pm to 4pm. The fete this year will be on the Kent Fire and Rescue Services recreation field adjacent to their HQ, off Straw Mill Hill. Postcode ME15 6XB.

Children's entertainers, ponies, slides and beer tent. All welcome.