

Valley Conservation Society



doing nothing is not an option

Members' newsletter No 163 We are a non-political organisation

February 2019

Come to the AGM

*Complimentary copy
for your interest*

It is now time to look forward to the Society's Annual General Meeting, which will be at the Eling Court Day Centre, off Hilden Shaw on the Broadoak Avenue estate (ME15 6DE).

The AGM, on **Saturday, February 16**, is your opportunity to hear reports of all the Society's activities during the past year, and your chance to elect a new committee to run the Society.

Importantly it is also the best opportunity to raise any concerns you may have or to proffer any suggestions or ideas for the future course of the Society.

The meeting starts at 10am and usually ends around 12.30pm. Coffee will be served.

In accordance with the constitution, all the existing executive committee members must step down and members will have the opportunity to re-elect them or to elect new members.

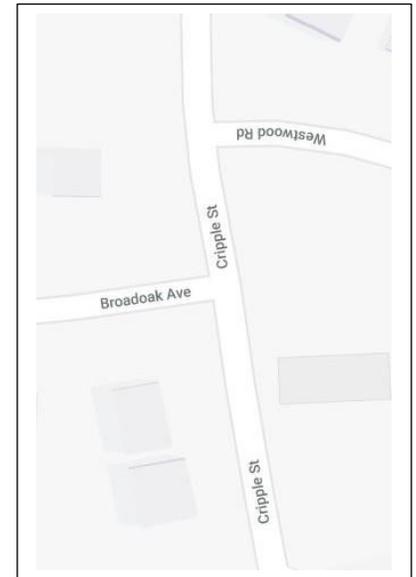
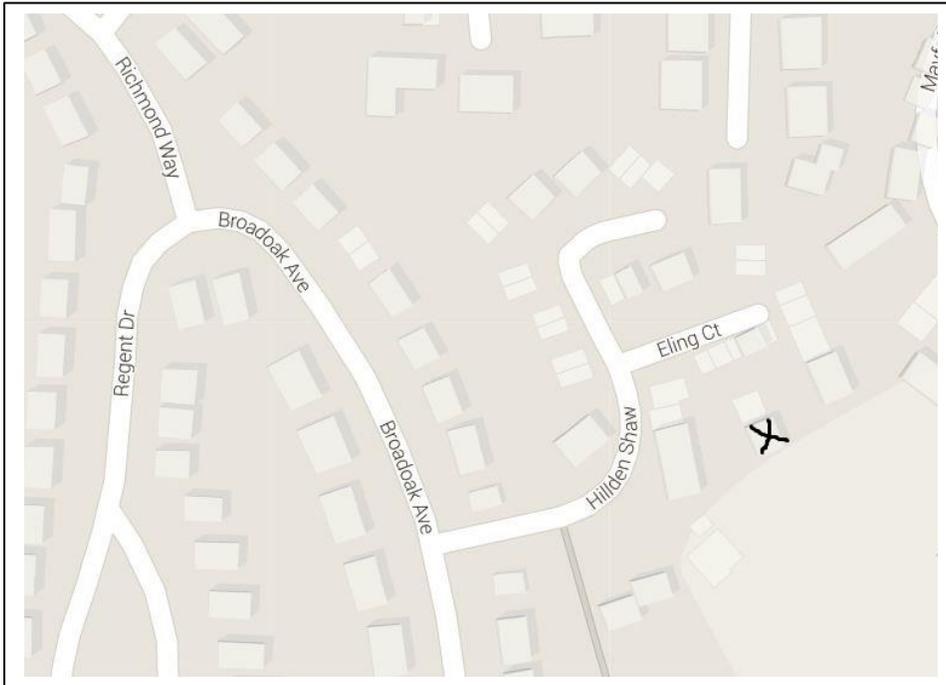
The AGM will include an open session for points raised from the floor, but members can also ask for items to be placed on the agenda by prior notice to the secretary Alan Smith on 01622 751926 or email a128smith@btinternet.com

Of course, to vote you must be a paid-up member of the Society, and so it is time once again to ask you to renew your membership subscription. A membership application is attached at the end of this newsletter.

We are retaining the membership fee at the nominal sum of £2 per person, but of course we are always happy to receive additional donations. Your membership can be renewed on the door at the AGM.

What is very important to us is that you sign up **every member of your family**, rather than just one per household. In our dealings with funding bodies, with the borough council and others, the more members we can honestly claim to represent, the more influence we are likely to be able to wield.

It is helpful to us if members are willing to receive their newsletters by email as it saves costs. Please be careful to give your exact email detail - and don't forget to notify us if during the course of the year you change it!



Broadoak Avenue is a turning off Cripple St.

X marks the spot for the Eling Court Day Centre and our AGM

Summer Barbecue

Our summer barbecue this year will be on **Saturday, July 20**. It is the usual format: bring your own chairs, tables and drinks, we will supply all the food you need.

It's all taking place in the beautiful grounds of The Manor at Hayle Place. There will be live music, though we are looking to have a different band this year for a change. Tickets are £10 and will be available at the AGM.

Saxon Way - again

In our last newsletter, we announced that the application for a side and rear extension at 36 Saxon Way had been rejected by Maidstone council.

But it turns out that even while those newsletters were at the printers, the resident submitted a new application – for just the rear extension.

Although it is regrettable that the home-owner feels the need to alter his house so soon after moving in, it was the side extension and its potential damage to the adjacent boundary hedge and footpath that was worrying the Society, so this time we will not be objecting.

Application number 19/500027 refers.

Five Year Plan

Incredible though it seems, it has already five years since the Society with Tovil Parish Council jointly purchased Crisbrook Meadow off Cave Hill.

A management plan was drawn up in 2013 covering the first five years – and we are happy to report that all the objectives set out in it were achieved.

A new management plan covering 2019 to 2024 has now been made and can be viewed on our website: www.valleyconservation.org.uk

Under the terms of the purchase, the management of the meadow is entirely in our hands, however, we did consult the parish council to ask whether they wanted to comment on the plan. The council chairman, Lloyd Porter, said: “VCS is doing such a wonderful job down there, we are perfectly happy to leave you to get on with it.”

Railings



The work party have already ticked off one of their tasks in the new Management Plan.

They have erected some safety railings by the bridge at the main entrance to Crisbrook Meadow, opposite Crisbrook House. We had become aware that it would be possible for a child to fall through the gap and take quite a tumble.

Come join us

The work party meets every Tuesday at 10am and works till about 3.30pm. New faces are always welcome – there is always plenty to do. Meet at the Conservation Cabin in Cave Hill, or call the chairman, Bryn Cornwell, on 01622 746514 if you have any queries.

Gateway to heaven

Finally, we hope you have admired the new five-bar gate at the entrance to Crisbrook Meadow. It was paid for with some of the money we obtained from the Tesco Bags For All Awards last year and installed by our team. The name Crisbrook Meadow is engraved on the top bar - a nice touch we think.



VALLEY CONSERVATION SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2019

I/We should like to (re)join the Society: *(Please include your title and first name)*

Names:

.....

Address:

.....

.....Postcode.....

Phone: E-mail:

Mobile:

Would you prefer to receive newsletters by e-mail? Yes / No

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:

**Tony Day, Membership Secretary,
57 Mayfair Avenue, Maidstone, ME15 6BY**

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

General Data Protection Regulations

Please tick the box if you consent to the Valley Conservation Society retaining the details on this form

Our legal basis for holding and processing the data you provide is our legitimate interest as a membership organisation and we will use it to send you newsletters and other information we consider relevant and useful. We will not disclose it to any third party

Office use only:

Issued:

Donation: £

Membership Nos

