

Valley Conservation Society



doing nothing is not an option

Members' newsletter No 165

We are a non-political organisation

May 2019

Runaways sell out show

*Complimentary copy
for your interest*

It's been a busy past few weeks for the Society. Our last event, a show featuring Sixties band The Runaways, proved very popular and was a sell-out.

Some 130 people packed Boughton Monchelsea Village Hall to hear hits from The Shadows, The Beatles, Elvis Presley, The Tornados and many others. The fish and chip supper was also well received. The evening raised £562 for the Society – in large part due to the proceeds from a raffle. Our thanks to all those who bought tickets and donated prizes.



Many people left it too late to book and were disappointed. Our apologies, but there is a lesson to be learned there. Tickets for our next show, which will feature **Five In The Bar** and will again be at Boughton Monchelsea Village Hall on Saturday, October 19, are already on sale. They cost £15 to include a fish and chip supper, from Alan on **01622 751926** or email **a128smith@btinternet.com** Book now to avoid disappointment!



Chairman Bryn Cornwell with some of the walkers

Spring is sprung!

The Society held its annual Spring Walk around the Lower Loose Valley on Saturday, April 27. Some 35 people joined guides Bryn Cornwell and Dennis Usmar on a tour of the land owned by VCS and of the Hayle Park Nature Reserve.

The weather looked threatening, but in fact the rain held off, and at the end of the tour there were free home-made cakes and teas, courtesy of Jane Holman at The Manor at Hayle Place. Many walkers had taken the tour several times before, but it was also nice to see new faces from those recently moved into the area.

Membership

Last year was a year of record membership for the Society, with 534 people paying their subscription.

Naturally our membership secretary Tony Day wants to beat that figure this year. To date, 76 members from last year have not renewed their subscription – we hope this is just forgetfulness! If you are one of them, please contact Tony asap on 01622 676810 or by email to VCSmembership@btinternet.com.

If you can persuade a friend or neighbour to sign up so much the better!



Guy Bartlett with the Mayor, Cllr Dave Naghi

Picture courtesy of Brian Clark

Dambusters hero Guy Gibson returns to Tovil

There was a very interesting talk by Loose-based historian Guy Bartlett on his namesake Guy Gibson at the annual Tovil Parish Council meeting.

Wing Commander Gibson led the famous Dambusters Raid during the Second World War destroying two dams and breaching a third in the Ruhr Valley using the ingenious bouncing bomb designed by Barnes Wallace.

Mr Bartlett's talk was full of detail about the design of the bomb, the very precise flying details of the mission and the fate of the crew members.

Tovil Scoutmaster Geoff Saunders added to the interest by bringing along two pictures of Gibson, who won the VC for the raid, taken when he joined the Tovil Scouts as an honorary member in 1943.

Following a break, Dennis Usmar gave a presentation on the work of the Valley Conservation Society. The evening concluded with a speech from the Mayor Dave Naghi, who praised all those who did voluntary work in the community.

Cllr Naghi, who earlier in the year had opened The Barn on the Hayle Park Nature Reserve for us, especially said how impressed he was with all the publicly accessible green space in the parish, which he said was the envy of other wards.

More on Tovil Parish

It's all change on Tovil Parish Council. The chairman Lloyd Porter and several other parish councillors did not seek re-election on May 2.

Before he left office, Cllr Porter paid a visit to the work party at the Conservation Cabin in Cave Hill to thank them for all that they had achieved for the parish during his term of office.



Cllr Porter was in turn thanked for the support given to the Society by the parish council, particularly with grants that had enabled the Society to purchase vital tools such as those recently bought pictured left.

Tree work



It would be fair to say that recent coppicing work carried out by contractors working for the Trust in Hayle Park Nature Reserve has not been universally popular.

The Society has done its best to replace those trees that have been lost with new plantings. The Tuesday work party has also surfaced several paths through the woods using chippings.



If you can help with the work party, call in at the Conservation Cabin in Cave Hill on any Tuesday at 10am or phone Bryn Cornwell for details on 01622 746514.