

# Valley Conservation Society



*doing nothing is not an option*

Members' newsletter No 177

We are a non-political organisation

March 2022

## New venue announced for our AGM



At last now that the Government has finally lifted all Covid restrictions, we feel able to hold our annual general meeting. The meeting was cancelled last year because of the pandemic, and postponed from our usual February slot this year for the same reason.

Please take this as notice that the Society's annual general meeting will be held on **Saturday, April 30**, starting at **2pm**. **Please note the new afternoon start.**

There is a new venue, as unfortunately Golding Homes is no longer letting out the Eling Court Day Centre. We will meet at the **King George V Pavillion**, off Walnut Tree Avenue in Loose, **ME15 9RN**.

The AGM is your opportunity as a member to hear reports of all the Society's activities during the past two years. 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 must end by 4pm. Coffee and tea 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. (Any nominations must be received in writing by the secretary by April 15.) 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](mailto:a128smith@btinternet.com) (before April 1 please).

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 for 2022 if you have not already done so. 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 also be renewed on the door at the AGM.

**Change to the Constitution:** The present constitution requires us to hold the AGM *in January or as soon as practicable thereafter*.

We have always found meeting in January difficult because of the need to have the accounts for the year prepared and audited before the meeting. In addition, we are aware that on several occasions

when we have held the AGM in February, there has been snow on the ground.

The following resolution is therefore proposed by the Secretary

*That in Section N (1) of the Constitution, the word January be replaced with April.*

The result would be that we would be required to hold the AGM in April or as soon as practicable thereafter. The motion will require a two-thirds majority to pass.

## Conservation Cabin roof

The Conservation Cabin in Cave Hill has been given a new roof as the old one had started to rot. This was a large undertaking, thought to be beyond the skills of our work party team, and initially the executive committee sought quotes from builders to carry out the work – which came back in excess of £13,000!

Long-standing VCS member Steve Small, who is a professional carpenter, then offered his skills and did the job in two days, assisted by the work party. Steve declined to accept any payment.

A huge thank- you to Steve, and also a shout-out to executive committee member John Smith who arranged the purchase and delivery of the materials.

The opportunity was taken to effect some improvements to the design, including the extension of the roof to create an overhang, so that the work party can have some shelter to eat their sandwiches under when it is raining.



***The cabin today, and (insert) before***

# Abbeygate development

We wrote to Tovil Parish Council asking that the issue of the Local Plan Review proposal for 250 homes at Abbeygate Farm off Stockett Lane be placed on the agenda for discussion by the parish councillors.

The request was denied. This seems odd, since the proposal requires the forging of a new road across the Walnut Tree Meadow Nature Reserve, which is run by the Hayle Park Nature Reserve Trust. Three members of the nine trustees are nominated by the parish council.

We also contacted our MP Helen Grant, but she had nothing useful to contribute.

## VCS calendars

We are delighted to report that the 2022 VCS calendars went like hot cakes and were quickly sold out. Thanks very much to our member Michael Innocent whose initiative this was and who saw the project through with the printers. It netted the society a profit of £250.

Naturally, the executive is very keen to repeat the initiative next year and we invite members with a flair for photography to submit any potential images for consideration. We would like a seasonal photo for each month, and would prefer scenes either on VCS land or in its close vicinity. You don't have to own a fancy camera, an image taken on a mobile phone could suffice.

We want to give ourselves a little longer to sell the calendars next time (in the hope of selling more), and so request submissions by August 31. Send your image to [a128smith@btinternet.com](mailto:a128smith@btinternet.com) giving the date and place of the photo, your name and a phone number. Thank you.

Below is a submitted image of Snowdrops in the valley in February.



# Sad start to the year

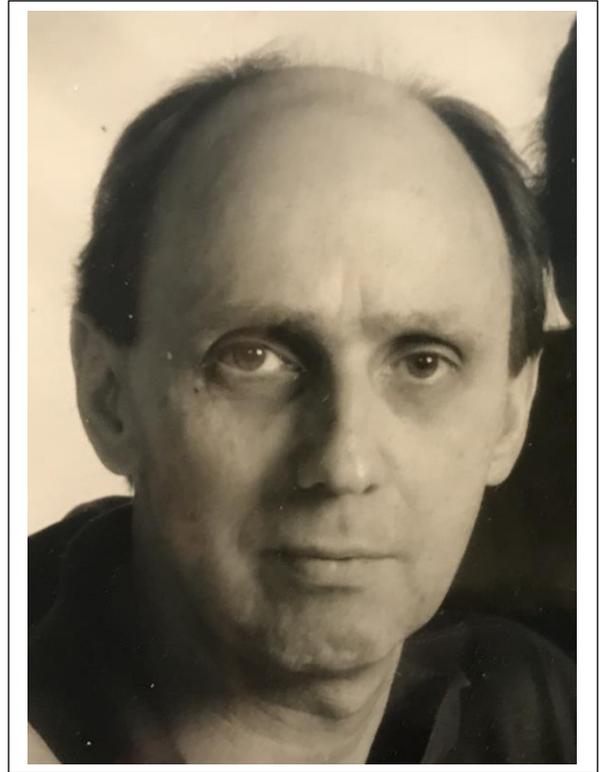
Just before Christmas, the Society lost one of its most loyal and valued members. Colin Holman passed away at his home on Monday, December 20, after a long struggle with Multiple Sclerosis. He was 72.

Colin had been a member of the Society almost since its foundation more than two decades ago and had served as the Society's membership secretary and sat in on many executive committee meetings.

He will be known to many members as the genial host on the countless occasions that he invited the Society to use the grounds of his lovely home, The Manor at Hayle Place, as the venue for our annual barbecues and other events.

Before retirement, Colin had enjoyed a long and successful career with Kent Police, and the coffin at his cremation service at Vinters Park was draped with the Kent Police flag.

We know all members will join us in expressing their deepest sympathies to his widow, Jane.



**Colin Neal Holman**

## Spring Walk

The Society will hold its annual Spring Walk on **Saturday, April 23**, meeting at **10am** at the Conservation Cabin in Cave Hill. There will be a guided tour around the Valley with a chance to view the results of the work party's labours and (hopefully) to admire the woodland bluebells. Dogs welcome. Stout shoes are a must. Afterwards there will be refreshments in the grounds of The Manor at Hayle Place. All welcome.



## Work Party

A reminder that the work party meets every Tuesday at 10am at the Conservation Cabin. New faces are always welcome. You can stay for as long or as little time as you like, and choose your jobs to suit your tastes and abilities. Further information from our chairman Bryn Cornwell on 01622 746514.

## Facebook

Don't forget you can follow us on Facebook. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/VCSface>

# Valley Conservation Society

## Membership Application 2022

Names: .....

Address: .....

..... Postcode.....

Email(s) **please print** .....

Phone ..... Mobile .....

Membership is £2 per person per year (50p for 14 to 18 year olds). **It would greatly assist us if you are able to pay by online bank transfer or standing order.** Please email [VCSMembership@btinternet.com](mailto:VCSMembership@btinternet.com) with your name and address if you choose this option.

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

Cheques/cash can be delivered with your form to Tony Day, Membership Secretary, 57 Mayfair Avenue, Maidstone ME15 6BY. Cheques should be payable to Valley Conservation Society

### STANDING ORDER MANDATE

*(please allow at least 14 days to start date for bank processing)*

To: **The Manager**, (add name and address of your bank/building society)

.....

Name(s) of Account Holders

.....

Account Number: ..... Sort Code: .....

Please pay:

**Lloyds Bank plc**, Week Street, Maidstone (309537) Branch, PO Box 1000, Box BX1 1LT

For the credit of: **Valley Conservation Society**

Account Number: **02166853** Sort Code: **30 95 37**

The sum of £ ..... starting on .....2022  
and thereafter on 1st day of January every year until further notice.

Signature(s) ..... Date: .....

**General Data Protection Regulations:** *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.*

Please tick the box if you consent to VCS retaining the details on this form