

# Valley Conservation Society



*doing nothing is not an option*

Members' newsletter No 180

We are a non-political organisation

June 2022

## Children from Tiger Primary visit Crisbrook



Last month, we were happy to host a visit by Year 5 children from Tiger Primary School to Crisbrook Meadow in the Valley.

The children engaged in a mini-raft building contest, floating their creations in the Loose Stream.

Their teacher, Sarah Newman, said afterwards: "Thank you VCS so much for allowing us to use Crisbrook Meadow.

"The children had a wonderful time and it was such a beautiful day!

"Thank you for providing the children with such a fantastic learning experience!"



## Barbecue

We have very few tickets left for the summer barbecue on Saturday, July 23, in the grounds of The Manor at Hayle Place. If you haven't yet bought yours, this is literally the last call. Ring Alan on 07860 909903 asap.



# Tea at Abbeygate Place

We are so grateful to members John and Esther Talbot, who laid on afternoon tea for VCS members in the delightful gardens of their historic Grade II\* listed home – once the residence of children’s TV star Mr Pastry (Richard Hearne).

Around 24 members enjoyed tea, cake, scones and good conversation on a lovely sunny afternoon.

A bucket collection for VCS raised £56.

*\*Abbeygate Place is threatened by an allocation for 250 homes in Maidstone Borough Council’s Local Plan Review, which would see development along two sides of this beautiful house (which dates in part from the 1400s) plus the creation of a road corridor 20metres-wide across Walnut Tree Meadow Nature Reserve. Incredibly, the allocation was not opposed by Tovil Parish Council in their response to the Local Plan Review.*



*John and Esther Talbot at Abbeygate Place*

# Ash die-back

Members may have noticed that we have had some Ash trees felled along the bank by the ponds at Lower Crisbrook.

VCS hates cutting down trees, but sadly these trees had all contracted Ash die-back, a fungal infection that eventually kills the tree, but also in the meantime makes them brittle with a tendency to split and loose boughs. So the trees had to be felled for safety reasons.

We contracted Hoods Tree Services. The firm is run by John Hood and his sons. John is the son of Roy Hood, who many members will recall as the founder of the Loose Amenities Association, which does similar work to ourselves at the other end of Loose Valley.

