



## **Meeting held at Angies on January 15<sup>th</sup> 2026**

**Those attending were:** - Mary, Angie, Pete, Denis, Andrew, Owen, Pip, Sally and Natalie Everson

**Apologies sent were from** Leonie, Aaron, Ian, Mike and Liz.

Jacob McAdie from BART and Gary Myers SGC.

Minutes of the last meeting were approved.

### **AGM**

- a) All members of the committee: - Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Workday Manager were re-elected.
- b) The Financial review was very concerning. We did not have enough in our account to pay for this year's Website renewal, settled by our treasurer out of his own account until finances can be found. We desperately need a grant from somewhere. Mary and Angie will apply to several organisations and hope someone will help us. Mary is to apply to the Parish Council for a grant for a replacement bench. More of that later.  
The Parish Council Grant of March 2025 was used for the Website, Fuel for the Strimmer, Bird Boxes and bulbs and seeds.
- c) There was a review of the Constitution, Volunteer Agreement and Risk Assessments. All were found to be in order and up to date. Natalie (SGC) will enquire about legalities of age to be covered by our insurance. There will be a new Volunteer Agreement coming into effect by the end of January.

### **Bristol Avon Rivers Trust and Wetland Project**

Jacob McAdie from BART is keeping in touch with us. We and everyone else who use the valley are concerned by the stress the water being held back by the Leaky Dams in the Wetland is having on the stone bridge. It's wonderful that we have more water in the Wetland, but at what cost to the bridge. Jacob has applied to the Environment Agency for permission to open one or more of the channels to the stream that were dug by SGC a few years ago and this may help but will be a long wait apparently. There was to be a noticeboard with a QR code erected by BART to enlist the help of the valley users to send photos of the stream to BART as a monitoring aid, but this is still awaited.

We appreciate that our Wetland is being used in a much larger project, that of the River Frome Reconnected Project, set up in 2018. It aims to coordinate project partners to manage flood risk on the Bristol Frome as well as improving biodiversity and connecting local communities to the river.

A site meeting between Jacob from BART and Gary Meyers from SGC is hopefully pending. The ground around the fence posts on the upstream side of the stone bridge is eroding due to the water surge and flooding of the path is also of concern.

The annual Wetland cut didn't take place in September as management plan advises and was in fact done in early January. This is just not suitable at all as the wetland has been scalped and we fear for the return of the wetland species. SGC are aware of this.

**A site visit by Gary Meyers of SGC** and three committee members took place on Jan 12<sup>th</sup>. This was very useful as we were able to show Gary some of the things that need attention and he took photos.

The fence on the slope needs to be repaired as does the fence over the stone bridge. The stone wall at the middle entrance that was knocked down last year is still awaiting repair. We discussed drainage on the path from the damp meadow to the wetland, but this seems a very costly project. The large wooden gate at the Beverley Avenue end is needing repair and the missing fence at the Bridle Path end of the valley was noted. The grass cutter machine has damaged another of the manhole covers at the slope end of the valley and this needs attention.

### **Work update from Pete Workday Manager from September 2025**

108 hours worked in this period (330 hrs worked from 1/1/25 - 31/12/25)

Some Blackthorn was removed to improve sight lines etc.

Species daffodils and snowdrops were planted and various seeds broadcast.

Woodchip was spread following tree surgery.

Removal of both floating pennywort, timber and rubbish from the pond.

Annual bird box survey carried out.

There was leaf sweeping, brush cutter activity, bramble management, hedge laying and sedge removal.

Tree pruning and crown raising and tidying after fallen trees etc.

The number of workdays one per month in Jan and Feb and two per month March onwards has worked well. Urgent ad hoc problems have been addressed outside of routine workdays.

We averaged four volunteers per workday and on one occasion we had eight!

A Mast Year has produced an abundance of fruit and seeds and with the dry conditions, there has been a lot of tree damage.

First Aid box is up to date and now also has a Tick removal tool.

Pete attended a full-day First Aid Course.

Future work from January 2026 onwards: -

One workday proposed in Jan and Feb and then two per month thereafter.

Complete the pruning in the Orchard and generally weed and tidy. Mulch is needed.

Hedge laying, hedge cutter work, bramble and blackthorn management.

More Sedge removal.

Coppicing work.

Clean the benches and noticeboards.

Split and relocate snowdrops.

**The Seat by the Stone Bridge**, our latest one, a favourite with everyone, was destroyed by vandalised fire in December. Some sort of accelerant must have been used and would therefore have been premeditated. Everyone who uses the valley is very upset by this. The Parish Council have been very helpful in making what was left safe and we are hoping with their help to replace it with a metal one if a grant can be obtained.

### **Trees**

One of the trees planted by SGC near to the children's play area has died and we are hoping this will be replaced. The trees in the Orchard that will have further winter pruning need mulching, and we have been repeatedly asking for this all-last year. Mary will follow this up again. The Oak stump by the wooden bridge that was left after the tree was felled deserves some sort of enhancement. Thought is being given to this.

### **South Glos Forum Meeting**

We haven't received notice of a forthcoming meeting yet.

## **Parish Council Local Nature Action Plan**

There were free trees available at the Pavilion for local people to put in their gardens on Sat 17<sup>th</sup> Jan to add to the biodiversity of the area. Other than that, we haven't had any other communication.

## **Wildlife News**

A pair of Egrets were seen, and the single one is in the valley most days which would suggest there are indeed fish in the stream. A resident in Beverley Avenue has seen a Red Kite over the valley which is very exciting. One was seen recently on Westerleigh Rd too, so they are getting closer. Foxes in good condition are regularly seen. The Sparrowhawks nested in the valley again last year and a young one has been seen several times.

## **AOB**

Ian, who was unable to attend the meeting provided us with the stats from the website usage since the last meeting in Sept.

There were 837 views with 365 visitors. A good number of people viewed the Latest posts, Contact us, History of Leap Valley and the Galleries. Most were viewed from the UK but there were 102 views from the USA and 19 from Germany. Poland, Canada, Bangladesh, France, China, Singapore and Sweden all viewed the site too. Incredible.

The noticeboard at the Bury Hill entrance has been repaired but some of the wood is rotten. Denis is looking into the 'In Bloom' guys maybe helping with this.

Date of the next meeting that was set, is to be rearranged and the group informed in due course.

