

Appendix 14

New groups involvement

- 1 **Riverscapes support letter April 2010**
- 2 **Riverscapes and Marksbury Area Community Association**



This is a statement made by Ashton Vale Heritage Group in support of the South Bristol Riverscapes Project

On behalf of Ashton Vale Heritage Group I would like to express our thanks to Helen Adshead and other members from the Riverscapes Project for the help and support which has been shown to AVHG and residents of Ashton Vale over the past 18 months or so.

Helen, together with Lorna Heaysman (Community Development) has helped us to organise several events based around Colliter's Brook. We have organised the Colliter's Brook Fun Day, which had a good attendance by local people, Christmas at Colliter's event where the local Primary School made lanterns and bread rolls, the Club for Young People made fresh soup and there was Carol Singing by the brook. AVHG joined in on the annual Colliter's Brook Trek and gave a talk on the wetlands at Ashton Vale Fields and residents from Ashton Vale, supported by members from other Rivers Groups and interested parties, joined the Trek to Hanging Hill Wood for a well deserved picnic to finish.

We have helped staff from the Environment Agency with a brook clearance day, when bird boxes were also made and put up on trees surrounding the brook and also helped them to remove invasive weeds along Colliter's Brook. All of this organised by Helen and the Riverscapes Project.

These events have greatly contributed to the community here and has hopefully made people more aware of our local river and the wonderful trails that can be followed from the urban edge directly into our countryside within minutes.

Ashton Vale is currently faced with large-scale development and could see many changes over the coming years. Helen has given great support to the local people and I personally would like to thank her for the help and enthusiasm she has shown to all of us.

The Wild Waters event was also publicised by the Living Rivers Project and my family and I thoroughly enjoyed our trip to the CREATE Centre.

A worthwhile project, the Riverscapes Project has connected similar minded groups and individuals with a passion for their local river, sparking ideas, funding improvements, creating a website and generally bringing awareness and appreciation of all the wildlife along the way.

*Sharon Bennett
On behalf of
Ashton Vale Heritage Group*

3 May 2010

RIVERSCAPES AND MACA

The Riverscapes Project has worked closely with Marksbury Area Community Association on several occasions. Helen has attended our meetings to keep us informed of the things being done for and about our river.

She arranged a clean up of the Malago with volunteers from the environment agency which made the pages of the local press. She has also organised the Malago Trek for the past 2 years, a thoroughly enjoyable occasion at which MACA representatives were encouraged to speak about their river and what it means to them. This included making people aware of threats to the Malago greenway from the BRT , which have now happily been discarded.

Helen also came to speak to us about the Signing the Malago project, which involved local schools.

On a personal level I found the mixture of involvement, education and practical help excellent and our river is looking much better for the attention! With the involvement of school children Riverscapes has hopefully helped ensure the future of The Malago with a new generation aware of its needs.

Rachel Hobbs, MACA