Malvern Community Forest AGM 2026

Wednesday 1st July 2026 18:30 at Prospect Woodland

Chairmans report

We are Land owners! Hornyold woodland passed into our ownership via a generous donation by the family of Alison White. We are very grateful for this as it raises our portfolio and gives us another place to “do our stuff”.

I am in the process of applying for permission to carry out tree works (The whole site is covered by a TPO (Tree Preservation Order) and we have to proceed carefully to sensitively conserve and protect the native flora and fauna. We are applying for a “Maintainance boundary” of around 2 metres which we intend to keep clear from overhanging and dangerous trees. Some thinning out may need to be done internally but we are taking advice on how to do this in a sensible and sustainable manner. We have been keeping the local residents “in the loop”, and hopefully this will translate to additional membership for MCF.

We have secured a 25 year lease on Beauchamp Road Green (a former recreation ground owned by Platform Housing). Again, we aim to involve local residents and groups in the maintenance and running of this beautiful green space. We have a narrow window of time to apply for additional funding for immediate infrastructure needed, (all weather pathways and raised beds etc).

We have to think outside the box to get the space used by the community without any detriment to the wildlife within the green. Events like May day celebrations, seed swaps and natural crafts lessons and school wildlife surveys are a good possibility.

Malvern Link Station continues to thrive as a wildlife haven, but we need to build the volunteer attendance at this site due to regular members having to redirect their attention elsewhere (unforeseen circumstances).

Prospect Woodland is (as you can see), a beautiful little gem of a space which is used by Malvern Hills Carvers to meet on a monthly basis to share Green-woodworking knowledge and skills that will be lost if we as a society are not careful. (Things like Pole lathe turning, bowl and spoon carving and chair/stool making when the resources ar available). The carving group would like to thank the regular MCF site maintenance group for keeping the space in tip top order.

2026 promises to be a brilliant year for promoting what we do, but as always, we need to try to up our game on the membership front. Corporate membership is foundering because we don’t have as much woodland to continually work with as we’d like. If the Hornyold permissions are granted, we may be able to resurrect some corporate interest as there is a huge impetus in that sector to positively contribute towards the climate and lowering carbon emissions.

I’d like to thank the trustees for all their support, Alison Smith for her generous woodland donation on behalf of her family and Platform housing for allowing us to lease their land for 25 years on behalf of the local Beauchamp Road and Leigh Sinton road community. Keystone Law provided legal help on a pro bono basis to get this over the line. Also a big thank you to Councellors Julie Wood and Natalie McVey for ward donations to kick start the initiative.

Dave Munday (Chair MCF)