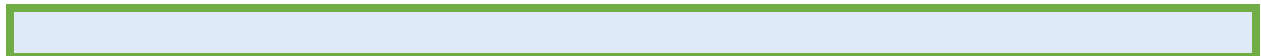




November 2022



The clocks have gone back, the evenings are darker, but there are plenty of events to look forward to this month in Chislehurst.



Remembrance Day





This year's ceremony takes place at the War Memorial on Sunday 13th November.

The Memorial stands on the Common and was given into the care of the Trustees in 1921. Throughout the year, Coolings Nurseries provide plants for the flower bed around the base, and our Keepers plant them out and tend them.

This autumn they planted polyanthus.



We will be at the Market with a stall selling photos of the Commons, our Christmas cards and some tree decorations.

Please come along and say hello.

All proceeds will go towards the maintenance of our beautiful Commons!

Christmas Tree Festival at Chislehurst Methodist Church in Prince Imperial Road



We are already at work on our entry to this festival which opens at the end of November. It is always an inspiring event, so please come and take a look at all the creative ideas.

An Update on the New Truck



The truck that best suits our requirements is manufactured in South Africa. It was delayed initially owing to a world-wide shortage of parts, and then again due to heavy rains which flooded the factory. It is now scheduled to arrive in this country in January 2023 but will need some adaptations before we can take delivery. We will keep you informed of progress.

Essential Tree Work



As we explained in our September newsletter, we are now seeing cases of ash dieback on the Commons. This is a fungal infection which is decimating ash trees around the country and started to appear on the Commons over the last year or so. Trees showing significant infection need to be felled, and you may have noticed specialist tree surgeons working on Centre Common Road recently. They also cleared foliage that was obscuring streetlamps.



A large Beech tree in Gunn Glade on St. Paul's Cray Common was recently found to be in a poor condition and had to be felled. Although we try to do as much work as possible in-house, this was a large tree and required specialist attention. We were able to arrange for the work to be done within a week of identifying the problem.

But all this work must be paid for!

Will you be a true friend of your local Commons?



The 180 acres are protected and managed under an Act of Parliament.

However, the Act made no provision for funding, and we rely on the generosity of the local community to maintain the 180 acres of natural countryside within our urban setting.

We have two full-time Keepers, whose knowledge and dedication are invaluable. Everyone else who works to preserve and maintain the area does so voluntarily.

If you would like to support our work,

**you can donate via our website
www.chislehurstcommons.uk
or via [PayPal Giving](#)**

Thank you!

Our Wonderful Keepers and Volunteers

Our Keepers and volunteers undertake a range of tasks throughout the year. They are a great team, and we are grateful to them all. The Commons would not be the same without them.



After the tree in Gunn Glade had been felled, our Wednesday working party spent two weeks clearing holly and brambles, work which has enlarged the glade. It is a pleasant site on a sunny day and worth a visit.

Gunn Glade, so-called after a past Chairman of the Commons who is commemorated by a tree in the Glade, can be reached from Holbrook Lane. (See link to map below.)



Another Wednesday was spent clearing encroaching earth, grass and leaf litter, and any overhanging foliage from the pavement along St. Paul's Cray Road.

More Fabulous Fungi





Fungi come in many different shapes and colours and can appear quite magical. Autumn is a particularly good time to see them. They play an important role in the cycle of life and decay in woodlands, which is only just beginning to be understood.

Get your bird seed at Champion Wines.



Visitors to the ponds often like to feed the waterfowl, although there is plenty of their natural food around.

**We are grateful to Champion Wines for stocking packets of seed on our behalf.
This food is healthier for the birds than bread or products made from flour.**

All donations go towards the upkeep of Chislehurst Commons.

One of our Residents



This wood mouse was seen on St. Paul's Cray Common, on the heathland.

A Visitor



A mandarin duck was recorded in the Bird Count at the beginning of October at Rush Pond, but has not been seen since. The Commons provide a valuable sanctuary for birds migrating or travelling to another site.

And Finally



Although autumn is turning the trees on the Commons to yellow and orange, there are still flowers to be found.

All seasons bring interest and beauty to our wonderful Commons. We will continue to do our best to maintain and preserve the 180 acres for present and future generations.

Thanks for this month's photos to – Don Drage, Jonathan Harvie, Kevin Jennings, Sheila Poole, Dave Rosewell, and Mary Wheeler.

Thanks also to the Editorial Team – Christine Wearn, Ross Wearn and Mary Wheeler.