



March 2024



It's spring, and the woods are alive with the sound of music!

Amongst the trees and bushes of Chislehurst Commons, a few steps away from the hustle and bustle of the urban world, trills, whistles, cheeps and chirps ring out. The birds are preparing for spring.

In spring, the male birds sing loudly to defend their territory and try to attract a mate.

If you are up in time for the dawn chorus, you are in for a treat, but they sing all through the day, so it's never too late!



Walk down any of the paths, pause a while, and enjoy the variety of sounds – the ripples of long and short notes, the interludes, the melodious changes of pitch and volume.

But which birds are they?

To help with identification, the Wildlife Trusts have recorded the songs of different birds which you can access at [this address](#).

www.wildlifetrusts.org/wildlife/how-identify/identify-bird-song



The photos above show two of the birds you might hear, a robin and a female chaffinch, but there are many others. Male birds may sing louder, but the females provide the subsong, the quieter, softer sounds.





Woodland birds need somewhere to breed, feed and hide, so they prefer areas where there is undergrowth to provide cover and perching places, and a variety of plant life to produce flowers, seeds and berries, and to attract insects.

The area around the Overflow Pond is a good bird-watching spot. The photo of the long-tailed tit above, was taken there recently.



This wren is singing to attract a female, but he has something else to offer. He has probably already built a nest, or maybe up to 12, for a prospective partner to choose from. If the female is impressed, she will line it with leaves, moss and feathers. This means many nests are unoccupied, although the male may persuade a second female to take up residence in a nest rejected by the first.

Our Wonderful Keepers and Volunteers



The working party volunteers have been working to improve areas of the woodlands to make them more attractive to birds and other wildlife.

The photos above show an area where some trees were coppiced recently, and some holly removed, and the same area two weeks later with the sun streaming in. This will encourage lower-growing plants, and we hope, in time, it will be more attractive to wildlife.



In areas cleared of holly that was choking out any other growth, whips and saplings have been planted.

This is the area along Bromley Lane.



Although there are natural nesting sites across the commons, our bird boxes provide security and are always well-used.

Many thanks to Ross Wearn and Chris Pond for the upkeep, maintenance and

monitoring. Seven new boxes were put up this week, two for great tits and five for blue tits.

Social Media

You can keep up to date with news from the commons by following us on social media.

Facebook - chislehurstcommon

X - @ChisCommons

Instagram - chislehurstcommons

These platforms are an important way for us to communicate with the community, and we are very grateful to Sarah Gill-Schmitz who volunteers as manager of our social media presence, posts for us, and has been helping us to develop our social media skills.

Her support enables us to give news and views, but also important information. For example, in the next few weeks, we will be carrying out some essential tree safety work along Bromley Road, which may involve road closures.

Via our social media presence, we will be able to let you know the date as soon as possible.

Thank you, Sarah!



Early Flowers





Flowers are already appearing on the grasslands, roadside verges and woodland margins, an important food source for early invertebrates.

We are privileged here in Chislehurst to have such a precious resource as the Commons right on our doorstep.

The Act of Parliament that protects the 180 acres provides no funding, and we are dependent on the generosity of local people.

Can you help?



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!

Fabulous Fungi



Fungi continue to fascinate with their many varied shapes and forms. With over 15,000 types in the UK, they are difficult to identify, but we can say with some confidence, that the ones above are a type of puff ball. The upper photo featured in our December newsletter. The lower photo was taken recently and shows the holes where the spores have burst out.



These are, as yet, unidentified.

If you have interest and knowledge in this area and would like to help us, we would love to hear from you at info@chislehurstcommons.uk

**Colour, Shape, Texture and Pattern –
Nature's Art Gallery**







Our beautiful Commons not only help to mitigate climate change, give us a space for rest and relaxation and provide a haven for wildlife, they also offer us musical entertainment and inspiration.

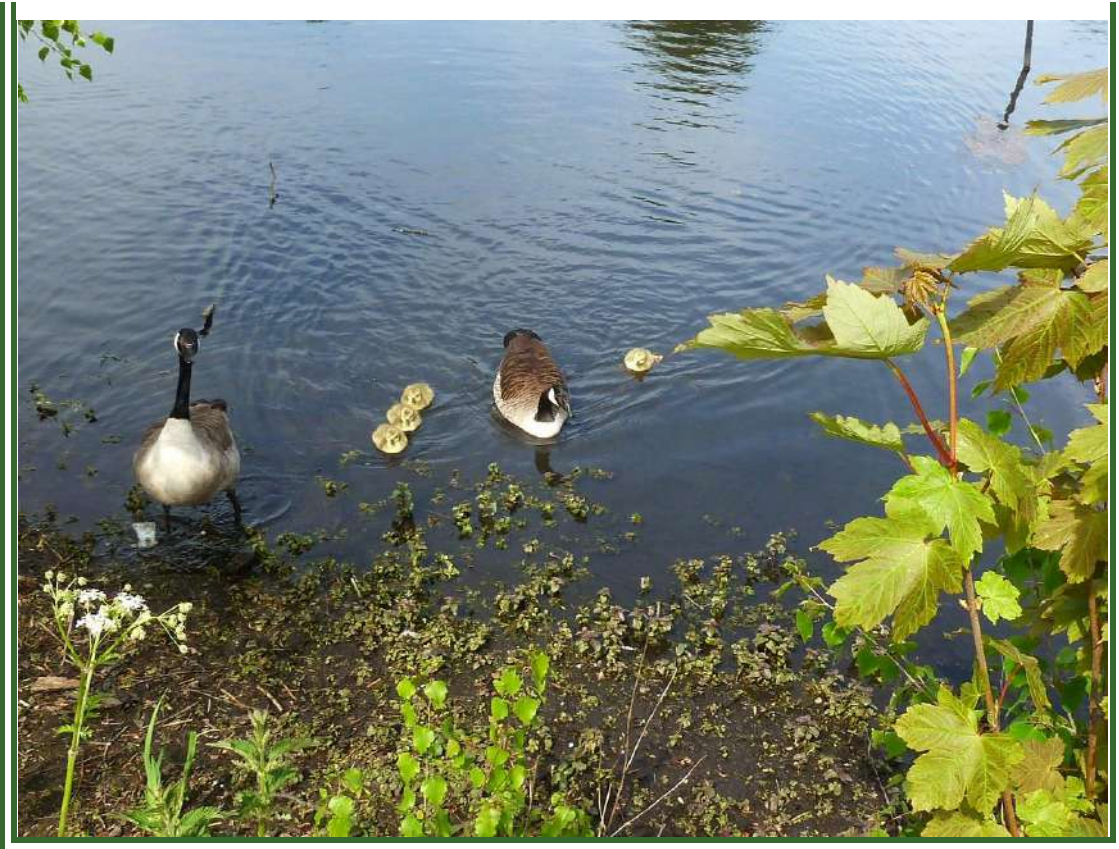
We will continue to do our best to preserve and enhance them for current and future generations.

Get your bird seed at Champion Wines.

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 proceeds go to Chislehurst Commons.

**When the birds stop eating, please stop feeding!
Food left on the ground or floating on the water will
attract rats!**



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Thanks for this month's photos to – Peter Edwards. Kevin Jennings, Ross Wearn, Charlie Wheeler and Mary Wheeler.

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



Chislehurst Commons are proud to display the Green Flag Award logo.

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