



October 2022



September has been an eventful month, more than we could have imagined at the time of the last Newsletter, and the natural world of our beautiful Commons has seen changes too. The photo on the left was taken on 28th August, and the one on the right nine days later on 6th September, after the first significant rainfall for many weeks.



As we move into October, the trees around us are gradually changing to the golden tones of autumn.

News of our Keepers



There are other changes for us at Chislehurst Commons too.

On Sunday 25th September, Peter Edwards, our Assistant Keeper, retired. Well-wishers gathered at our marquees opposite the Tiger's Head for a farewell party. Peter has been a familiar figure on the Commons for 14 years, and, in addition to the tasks involved with maintaining the area, he has assisted at community events and on our walks. As many of you know, he is a dog lover, and many of his canine friends came to the party. He is also a keen photographer and contributes many of the fabulous photos that appear in the Newsletters. Luckily for us, he will still be out and about on the Commons and has promised to keep the photos coming.



As we say farewell to Peter, we welcome Toby Smith who takes his place as assistant to Jonathan, our Head Keeper.

(The photo shows from left – John Hayhow, Chair of Chislehurst Commons,

Peter Edwards, Jonathan Harvie and Toby Smith.)

Toby is very enthusiastic about the Commons.

He recently retired from working for the London Borough of Bromley, and brings useful knowledge and skills to his new role.

He knows us already from volunteering with the working party, and worked with Peter for his last two weeks, getting to know the routines.

Our Wonderful Volunteers



But while some things change, much of the seasonal work on the Commons remains the same. Our volunteer working party has been helping to preserve

the acid grasslands by raking up the hay, thus depriving the soil of nutrients.



Volunteers have taken advantage of low water levels to cut back some of the

willows and overhanging foliage at Rush Pond. Twigs and other debris from the pond have been used to create refuges for amphibians such as frogs and newts.

WILL YOU BE A TRUE FRIEND OF THE COMMONS?

The 180 acres of local common land have been at the centre of the community in Chislehurst for centuries, providing a backdrop to daily life and a space that will always be free and open to all.

They are protected by an Act of Parliament.

Chislehurst Commons has responsibility under the Act for the management and maintenance of the area.

The Act, however, made no provision for funding, and we rely on our wonderful volunteers and the generosity of local people to enable us to continue our work.

We have two Keepers whose knowledge, skills and dedication are invaluable. Everyone else who works to maintain and develop our beautiful Commons does so on a voluntary basis.

We will continue to do our best to maintain and preserve it for present and future generations.

If you would like to support our work,

you can donate via our website

www.chislehurstcommons.uk

or via **PayPal Giving**

Thank you!

Prince Imperial Monument



There are many sites of historical interest on our Commons, and we have recently been working on improvements to the glade adjoining Prince Imperial Road where the monument to the Prince Imperial stands. Our volunteers enlarged the glade by clearing undergrowth and reseeding the area with grass

seed. We are very grateful to have received a grant from the ASAMAA Charitable Trust which funded two information boards, and also to the Chislehurst Society for meeting the costs of cleaning the monument. The information boards which tell the story of the French Imperial Family who came to live at Camden Place in 1870, have now been installed as shown in the photo.

The Amazing Biodiversity of Chislehurst Commons

The 180 acres of common land provide a habitat for an amazing diversity of plants and animals, all part of the interconnected web of life in Chislehurst.



Juvenile common lizard



Froglet



Toad



Male juvenile slow worm

The amphibians and reptiles pictured were all identified during a recent survey on the heathland of St. Paul's Cray Common.

The volunteers have spent several sessions there throughout the year, improving the habitat. It is pleasing to find evidence that it is supporting a range of amphibians and reptiles as well as butterflies and other more visible invertebrates.

Frogs return to water to breed but spend most of their time on land. The froglet pictured was some distance from the nearest water, which is the pond on the National Trust land.



Another area that has received particular attention from our volunteers is the Overflow Glade and wetland, where this photo of a willow emerald damselfly was taken.



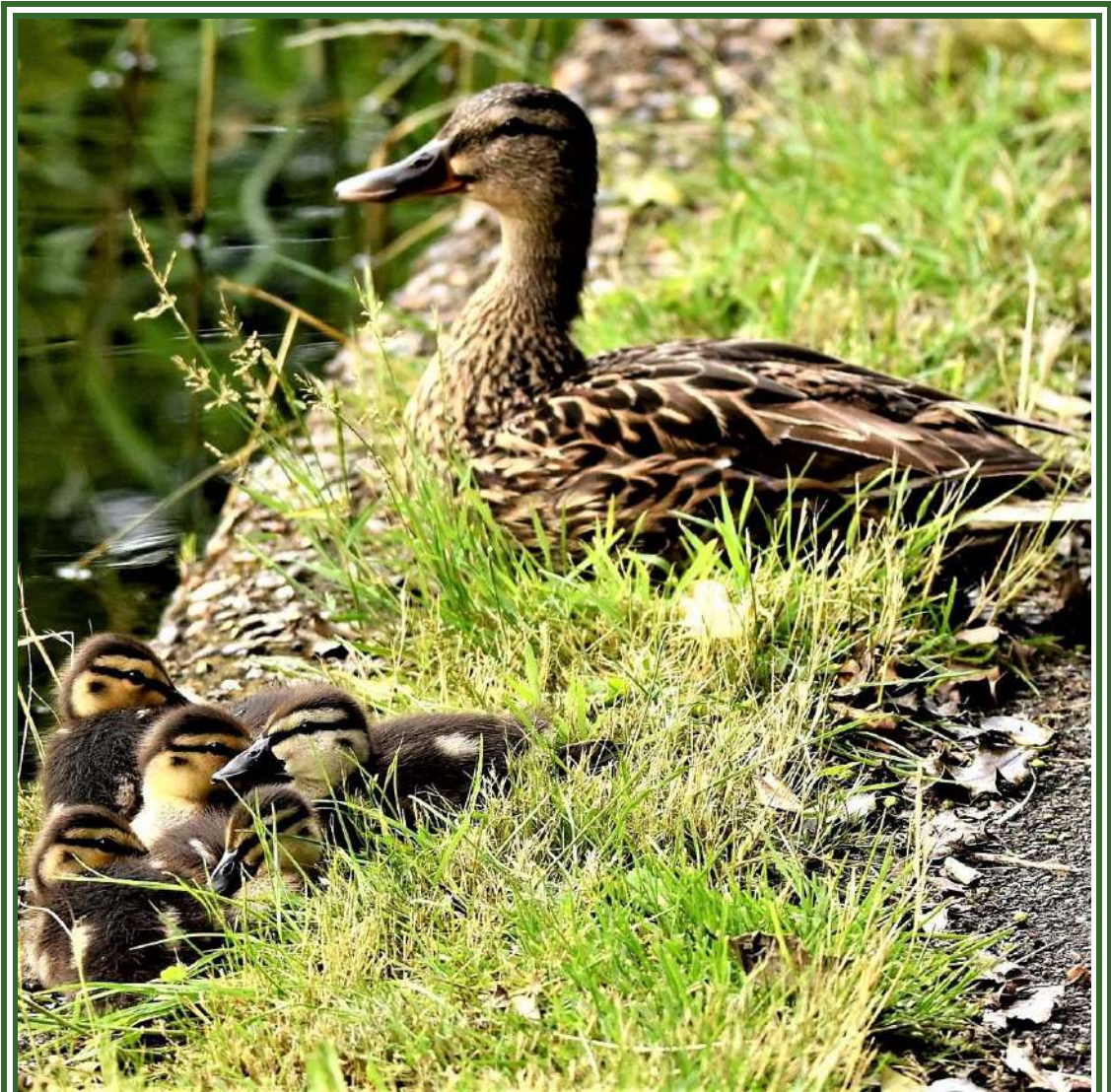
Small copper butterflies are hard to photograph because they are fast fliers, but their brightly coloured wings are unmistakable. You may see them through October, and even into November, depending on the weather.



This beautiful photo shows hornets feeding on honeydew on willow leaves at Prickend Pond.

Links in Chislehurst High Street

we are pleased to report that we are continuing to be supported by two of the

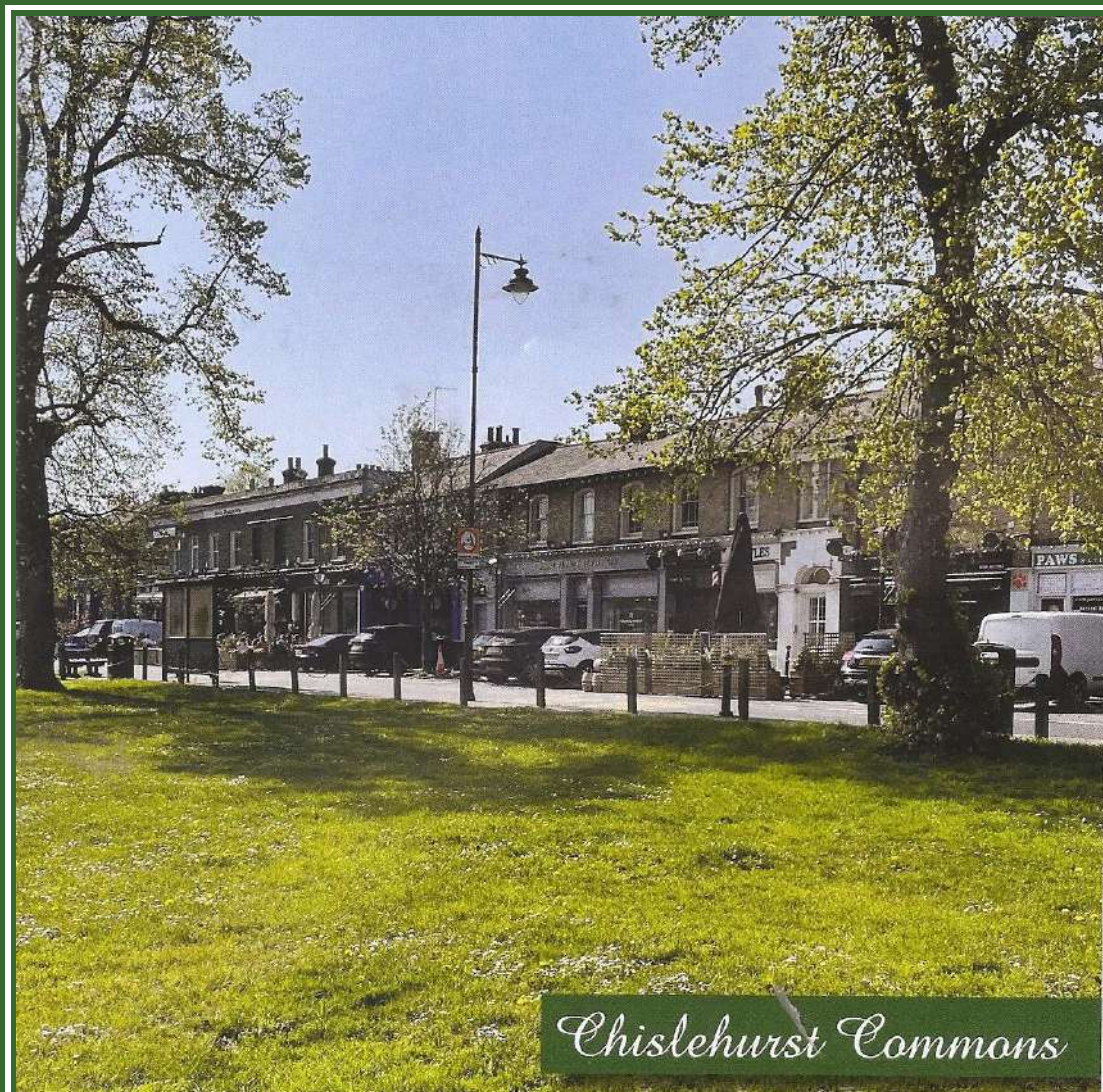


Get your bird seed at Champion Wines!

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

Champion Wines has kindly agreed to stock packets of seed on our behalf, which is healthier for the birds than bread or products made from flour.

All donations will go towards the upkeep of Chislehurst Commons.



Chislehurst Commons

Paper Lane in Chislehurst High Street stocks Chislehurst Commons Greetings Cards showing a selection of views.

All profits go towards maintaining our beautiful Commons.

And finally



Commons. A walk never fails to delight and inspire.

We will continue to do our best to preserve, maintain and enhance the 180 acres for present and future generations.

[Click here to access a map of the Commons](#)



We are registered with Amazon Smile.

Visit smile.amazon.co.uk instead of the normal Amazon website and select Chislehurst Commons, and, for everything you buy, Amazon will donate 0.5% to help maintain the Commons. This is another excellent opportunity to support the greenspace on your doorstep.

**Show your support for Chislehurst's commonland
while you shop!**

THANK YOU!

Thanks for this month's photos to – Don Drage, Kevin Jennings, Ross Wearn and Mary Wheeler.

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



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

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