



March 2023



It's spring again! The time of blossom, newly-hatched chicks, catkins, and flowers like this carpet of woodland crocuses near The Crown.

As the days begin to lengthen, we look forward to an exciting programme of events taking place this year on our wonderful Commons here in Chislehurst.

Dates for your Diary – Events on the Commons in 2023

The Commons, at the centre of Chislehurst, have long been a place for the community to gather together, and there is an exciting timetable of events on offer for this Coronation year.

We hope to see you at some or all of these events!



**Crowning of the May Queen on Centre Common Saturday 20th
May 3 - 4 pm.**

This year is a special one for the Chislehurst May Queen Society. It is 100 years since the Society was formed to continue the tradition of crowning the May Queen. The colourful ceremony is one of the highlights of the year in Chislehurst.

**Rotary Summer Fair on Centre Common Saturday 10th June 10 - 4
pm.**

This is always a great event, in a long tradition of fairs on the Common, and we will be there with a display – please come along and visit us.

The Big Picnic at the Cockpit Saturday 24th June 11 - 4 pm.

This is now an annual community event organized by Visit Chislehurst. Bring a picnic and join in the fun and games.

Chislehurst Creates at the Cockpit Saturday 23rd September 1-5 pm.

The Big Draw was a popular and much-loved community event that brought art to Chislehurst, over many years.

Chislehurst Creates will be a similar event, with activities to sample and entertainment.

We hope to see you there.



Chislehurst Christmas Market in Chislehurst High Street Date TBA

Organised by Visit Chislehurst. The Market offers an opportunity to shop locally for Christmas presents.



We will be offering walks on the Commons throughout the year which will be advertised, as usual, via email. Click [here](#) to download a listing of upcoming events.

The Chislehurst Commons Team

We are fortunate to have so many wonderful volunteers who support the Commons and help to make them such an amazing resource at the very centre of life in Chislehurst.

The Chislehurst Commons Team of Keepers, Trustees and Volunteers undertake many varied tasks – attending our regular working party, litter-picking, managing our social media, helping with social events, liaising with other environmental groups, providing expert advice, surveying wildlife, installing and monitoring bird boxes, fundraising – ensuring that the Commons remain free and open to all 24/7, now and into the future.

OUR THANKS TO THEM ALL!



There are many ditches that run across the Commons, both on St. Paul's Cray Common and Chislehurst Common, and our working party volunteers have been clearing out the fallen leaves, twigs, and other detritus that impede the flow of water.

Another group has been concentrating on clearing the ditch that feeds Rush Pond, so that as much water as possible can make its way more easily into the pond. The effects of climate change have made this work even more important.

What to look out for on the Commons in March



Spring flowers like this lesser celandine.

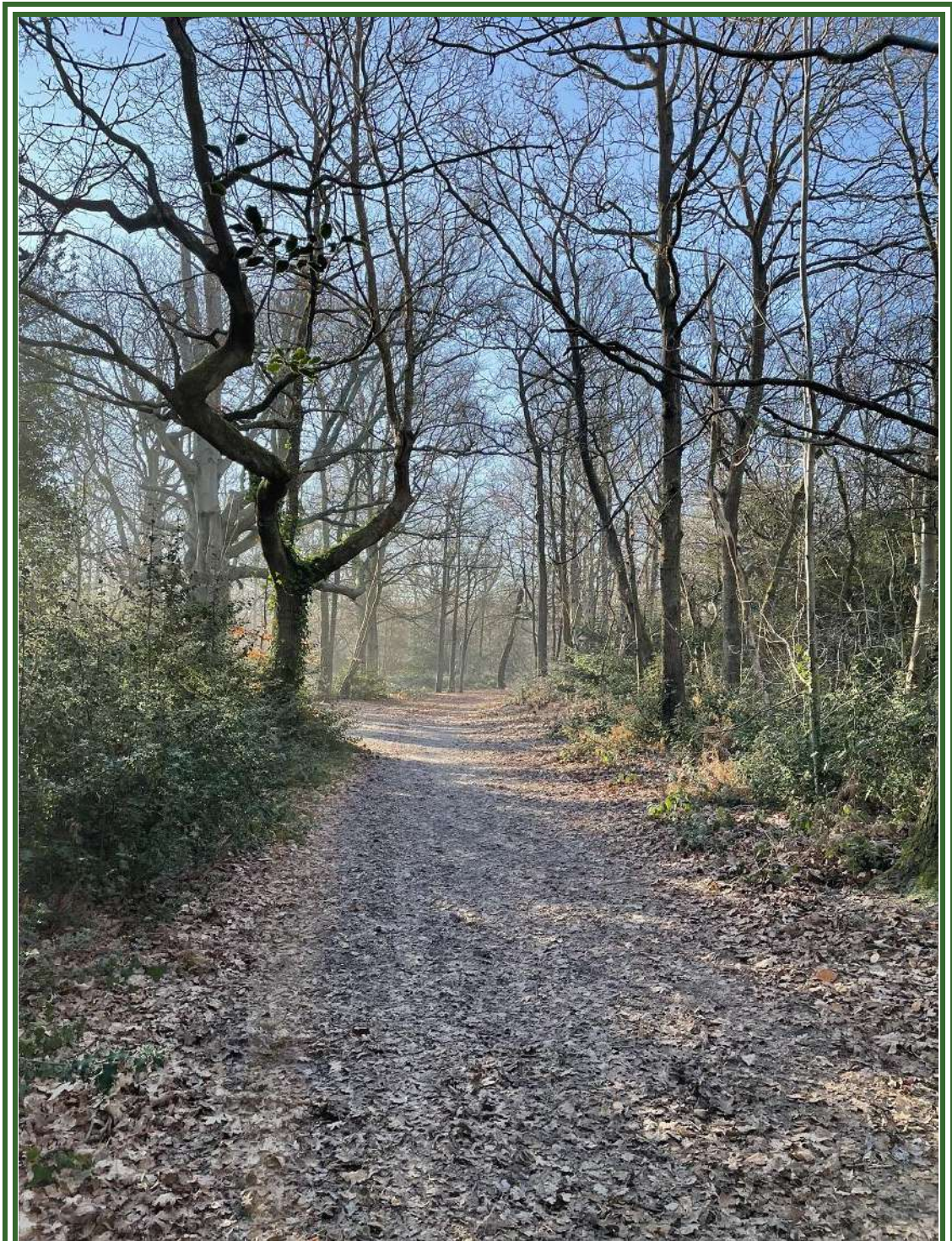


Early butterflies. You might see a comma, a brimstone, or a peacock butterfly like the one above.



New life at the ponds. These are Egyptian goshawks. They are early breeders, and these goshawks were first seen at Prickend Pond this year on 20th February.

Birds like these parakeets, investigating nesting sites.



The 180 acres of common land in Chislehurst is well-used by the community and is free and open to all at all times, within the bye-laws.

Will you help us to maintain it and develop its biodiversity?

We are very fortunate in Chislehurst that the 180 acres of local common land are protected 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!

First Amphibian Survey of the Year



Amphibian surveys are carried out at the ponds each year in spring. At the end of February, smooth newts like the one above were recorded at Rush Pond.

Bird Sightings



Blue tits, great tits and coal tits are woodland birds. This is a coal tit, identified by the white strip on the back of the head. They feed on spiders, insects, nuts and seeds.



Tree creepers are small birds that spend their days exploring the bark of trees for insects. They make their way up to the top of the tree, and will then often fly to the base of a nearby tree, and start another climb.

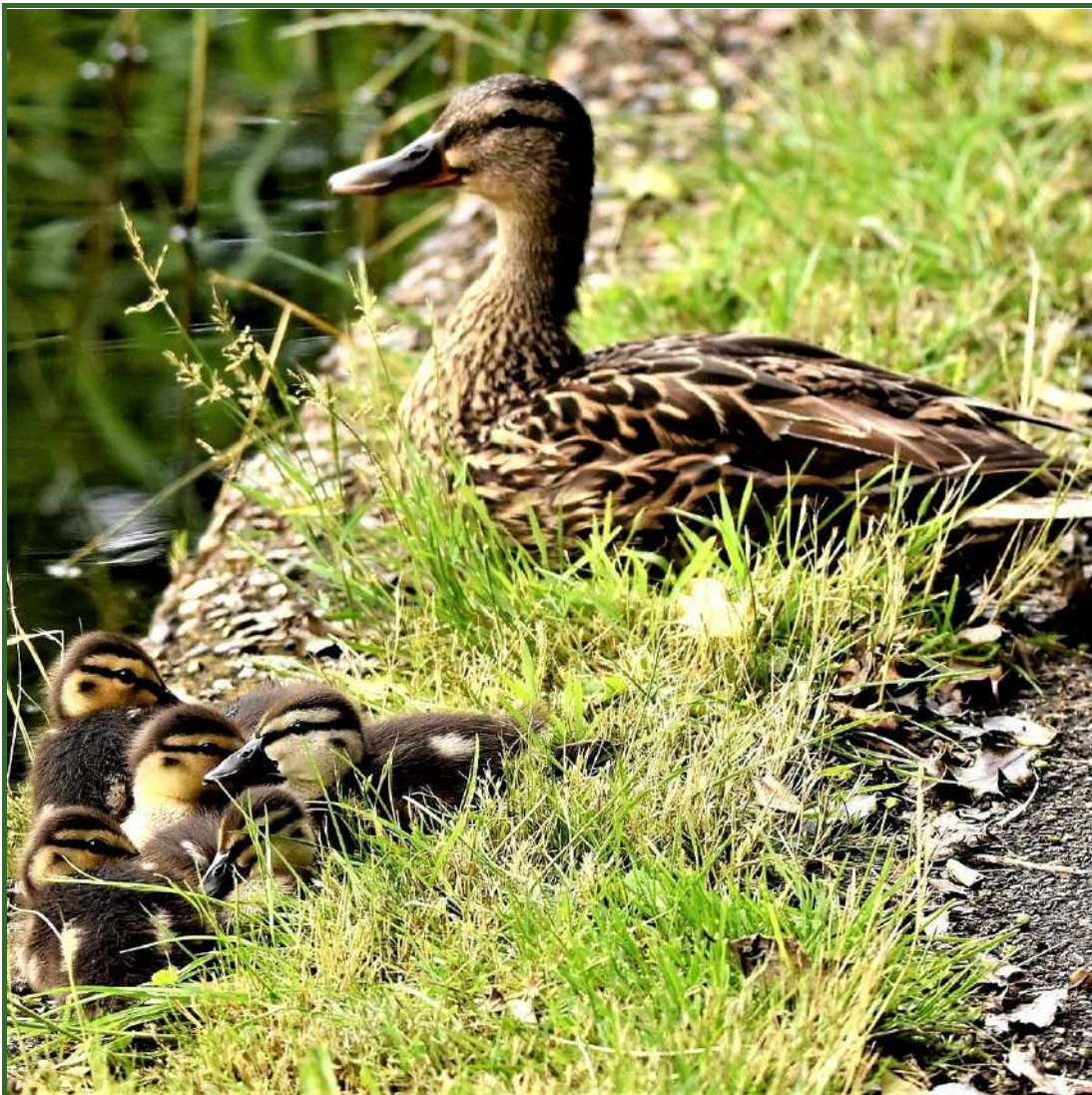
And Finally.....



A grand old man of the Commons – what tales he could tell!

With all that they offer the community, and the diversity of wildlife that makes its home here, our Commons truly are a unique and valuable asset to Chislehurst – the natural world on your doorstep.

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

You can now Support Us when You Shop Online

We are now registered with [easyfundraising](#) which means you can support us when you shop online.

Over 7,000 retailers and services will donate to us when you connect to their websites via [easyfundraising](#) to shop with them – at no extra cost to you, and you earn all your normal loyalty benefits!

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It's easy to use and these donations really mount up, so please sign up to support us by clicking [here](#)

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You can also support us by using the easyfundraising app available
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Thanks for this month's photos to – Don Drage, Peter Edwards, Sarah Harris, Kevin Jennings, Ross Wearn 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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