



**March 2021**



The meteorological first day of Spring! And how we need it after the dark days of winter which have brought such a mixture of weather. In the last month, our beautiful Commons have been deluged with rain and covered with snow, yet when the sun comes out, it shines on new shoots and early spring flowers.



This was the scene at Prickend Pond two weeks ago showing that there is beauty to be found in any season. Whatever the weather, there is always something to discover on a walk on the Commons. We know how important the 180 acres have been to Chislehurst in the past 12 months, offering the opportunity to exercise in the open air and connect with nature.



The new path at Prickend Pond has remained closed as a consequence of the recent very bad weather. We regret this delay, but the welcome news is that we plan to open it in the near future when it has had its final tamping down. As part of the project to increase biodiversity at the pond, we will be planting in the surrounding area, and other parts may be fenced off from time to time for protection. Plants have been chosen for variety, suitability to the site and their ability to attract a wider range of insects.



An Ash tree on the May Queen site was felled this month by our Tree Surgeon because it had serious internal decay, detected using a Resistograph Test (as reported in our last Newsletter). It is always sad to lose a tree, but we plan to replace the Ash with another native species. There is already a Hornbeam sapling nearby which was planted two years ago, and one possibility would be to replace the Ash tree with a Rowan. Rowans flower in Spring and would add some colour to that side of the May Queen Site with red berries as well later in the year.

# **WILL YOU BE A TRUE FRIEND OF THE COMMONS?**

The 180 acres of local common land 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 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.

**You can donate via our website at**

**[www.chislehurstcommons.uk](http://www.chislehurstcommons.uk) or go to [PayPal Giving](#).**

**There are now two additional ways for you to show your support for Chislehurst's common land.**



**Members of the Co-op can nominate our charity to receive 1p in every £ they spend.**

<https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/47108>



**We are also registered with Amazon Smile.**

Visit [www.smile.amazon.co.uk](http://www.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.

**THANK YOU!**



**Biodiverse and Beautiful**

This is one of twenty panels showing some of the birds of Chislehurst Commons.

### Goldcrest



*Photo – Kevin Jennings*

The Goldcrest, with its bright golden crown, is the UK's smallest bird, being 9cms long and weighing just 6 g. There is a resident population, but large numbers of migrants arrive in autumn from Scandinavia. They live in woodland, and feed on small insects and spiders.

They make dainty nests from moss, spiders' webs and lichen. Up to 12 eggs are laid.

#### ***Did you know .....***

- The Goldcrest often hangs upside down to take food from the undersides of branches.

**Chislehurst Commons has responsibility for managing the 180 acres of local common land under an Act of Parliament.**

**The Act made no provision for funding.**

**If you would like to support the work of maintaining our wonderful Commons, please visit our website [www.chislehurstcommons.uk](http://www.chislehurstcommons.uk) or go to PayPal Giving at**



**PLEASE STAY SAFE – KEEP 2 METRES APART**

20 panels featuring birds you may see or hear on a walk on the Commons are now displayed on boards along the main paths. The fabulous photos were taken by our Assistant Keeper Peter Edwards, and three of our Volunteers, Don

Drage, Kevin Jennings and Ross Wearn. We hope you enjoy them and find the information interesting.



Across the Commons there are signs of spring all around. Days are gradually getting longer, and Nature responds. In the branches of trees, birds are beginning to pair up and look for a suitable place to nest.

Long-tailed Tits are often seen in noisy flocks flitting through trees and bushes on the Commons in search of spiders, caterpillars and insects. The area around Rush Pond is a particularly good place to spot them. They are dainty birds with a tail that is longer than their body.

They make dome-shaped nests in bushes or the fork of a tree, using lichen, moss, feathers, and the cocoons from spiders' eggs. Over 1,500 feathers can be used to line the nest. 6 to 8 eggs are laid.



The characteristic song of the robin rings out through the woodland all year round, and they are a cheerful and familiar sight on the Commons. They generally start nesting in March, and the female is allowed into the male's territory where she makes a nest of dead leaves, moss and hair. A pair of robins may raise several broods each year.



Ring-necked Parakeets are also preparing to nest. This male is investigating a hole in a tree as a possible site. They often take over old woodpecker nesting sites. 2 to 4 eggs are laid and both parents care for the chicks.



Spring flowers brighten our daily walk. Look out this month for Lesser Celandine. There are already some of these flowers on St. Paul's Cray Common providing a valuable nectar source for early insects.



Violets grow in several places on the Commons, a welcome sight on the edge of woodland paths, or on the verges.



A Brimstone butterfly was spotted recently on St. Paul's Cray Common, another early sign that spring is on the way. They are large butterflies that hibernate in cold weather. They can be seen in damp woodlands and hedgerows and the margins of woodland paths.

**[Check out the Activities Tab on our Website.](#)**

**(Click [here](#) for a direct link, or go to [www.chislehurstcommons.uk](http://www.chislehurstcommons.uk))**

- **All the Tales displayed through the woodland in December and January are there for you to enjoy at your leisure.**
- **Our “Out and About” guides have things to look out for on the Commons, and activities for families.**
- **You can catch up on past Newsletters.**

**And finally ..... the Art that Nature makes.**



**The Commons offer much to please the eye, but there are also textures and shapes to be enjoyed.**

**Our wonderful Commons are truly amazing, the vibrant, buzzing greenspace at the heart of Chislehurst. We will continue to work to preserve and maintain them while also developing their biodiversity.**

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

**Thanks for the photos in this Newsletter to Don Drage, Peter Edwards Kevin Jennings, Brian Knights, 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.**

[If you would care to donate, please click here](#)

[or donate online here](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)



---

*Copyright © 2021 Chislehurst Commons, All rights reserved.*

You are receiving this email because you opted in via our website

**Our mailing address is:**

Chislehurst Commons

The Old Fire Station

Hawkwood Lane  
Chislehurst, Kent BR7 5PW  
United Kingdom

[Add us to your address book](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

