



The trees around us here in Chislehurst provide the backdrop to the life of our community. They increase our quality of life by bringing natural elements and wildlife habitats into our urban setting, and, in the present uncertainty, their strength, long lifespan and regal stature bring comfort. Within the woodland

they provide shade and shelter, but on the fringes and in the open they have room to spread and show their true beauty. The Oak in the photo above, by the Tiger's Head, is a good example.

We would like to thank you all for your interest and support. We will continue to bring you news and views from our beautiful commons during these unsettling times.



Our woodland has developed over the last 100 years or so since grazing ceased. It contains a variety of trees - Oak, Beech, Chestnut, Ash, Rowan, Hawthorn, Silver Birch, Hazel, Alder, Sycamore, Holly and Yew - with a few others such as Cherry and Crab Apple. Most grew naturally, but we have a few that commemorate national events, like the Oak Tree above, at the War Memorial junction, which was planted in 1911 for the Coronation of King George V and Queen Mary.

You can see photos of other commemorative trees on the common via a link at the end of this Newsletter.

There are many other lovely trees to see on the common – the line of London Planes along the wall of Camden Close on Watts Lane, the Limes along Church Row and the trees on the fringes of the May Queen site, for example. Just a few of them are pictured below.



Two beautiful trees on St. Paul's Cray Road, by the entrance to St. Paul's Cray Common (also the responsibility of Chislehurst Commons) - a Sweet Chestnut and an Indian Chestnut.

Chislehurst Commons has responsibility for managing the 180 acres of local common land under an Act of Parliament. However, we have no guaranteed funding, and depend on donations and our wonderful Working Party Volunteers to

enable us to continue to maintain and develop this precious natural resource.



Horse Chestnut in full bloom at the site known as "Hangman's Corner", at the junction of Watt's Lane and Bromley Road.



The Black Poplar at Prickend Pond. Judging from old postcards this is probably about 150 years old.



The verge along Prince Imperial Road shaded by Oak, Sycamore, Chestnut and Hawthorn trees.



Although most of our trees are only 80 to 100 years old, there are some,

particularly on St. Paul's Cray Common, that are much older. They were often planted as boundary markers to show Parish or road boundaries, or ownership of land. These two veterans have stood together for many years. The one on the right, although now a monolith, still provides a valuable habitat for woodland creatures.



This Beech tree, opposite the Bull's Head, was planted in 2000 to mark the Millennium and we hope that, despite pollution, climate change and other threats, it has a long future ahead of it.

And finally



This villain of Nursery Tales and Fables! Foxes benefit from the shelter of the woodlands, but also from the present situation, which has resulted in less traffic and human activity. This local resident was out in broad daylight.

[If you would like to see more photos of commemorative trees on the common, please click here.](#)

Thanks for this week's photos to Don Drage, Jonathan Harvie, Ross Wearn and Mary Wheeler.

During this difficult time, we will do our best to continue our work of maintaining the Commons and developing their biodiversity, so that they continue to be a valuable asset for us all.

If you know someone who would like to receive this Newsletter, please ask them to email us at contactus@chislehurstcommons.uk. Please note. Due to data protection laws we cannot accept their email address from you.



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