



In these strange and unsettling times, our commons here in Chislehurst have brought solace and hope to many. We would like to thank everyone who has emailed us.

Comments such as

“Cheers us up in gloomy times.”, “Makes one realise what lucky people we are to have such a wonderful environment right on our doorstep!” and “We feel lucky to be able to enjoy all these wonders of nature on our doorstep.”
highlight the value of the 180 acres in good times and bad.

We also hear that one of our younger supporters refers to the Hawthorn as “*the cupcake tree*” – a modern update on the “bread and cheese” tree.

The photo above shows the Midlands Hawthorn on Centre Common which has red flowers.

You can see this week’s gallery of the photos that have been sent in, including updates on the progress of the new life on the ponds and pictures of spring wildflowers on the common, via a link at the end of this Newsletter.

We will continue to bring you news and views while we remain in lockdown.



Many of the verges and islands of natural space in Chislehurst are common land - Shepherd's Green, the grassy area outside the Methodist Church, the verge and grass near the bus lay-by at Royal Parade, and Watts Lane verges, for example. They are valuable habitats, full of flowering plants and insect life, and look particularly lush at this time of year. These areas have to be carefully managed to maintain access along pavements for pedestrians, sightlines for traffic, but also to develop biodiversity. Careful, differentiated mowing promotes the growth of taller herbs and flowers in some areas, which attract their own community of insects and other animals - as shown in the photographs below.

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.

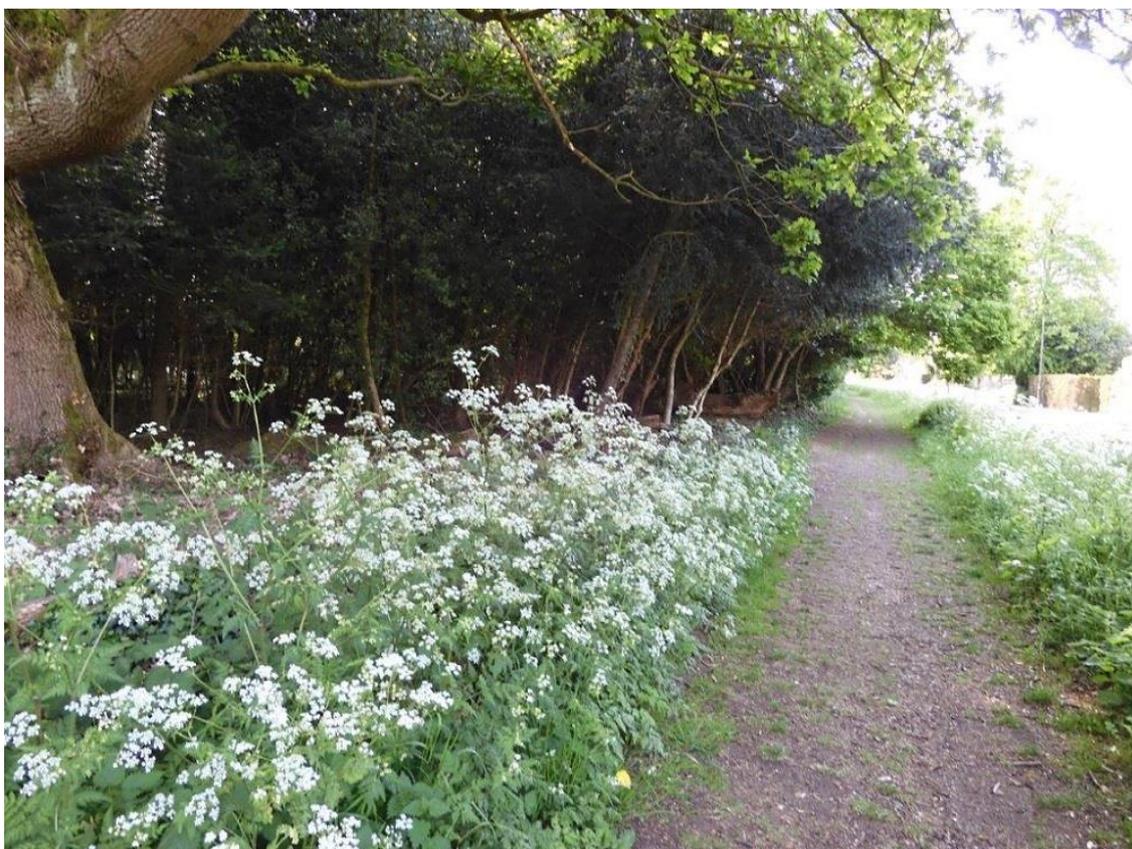


Areas like these along Watts Lane give Chislehurst a rural aspect, and help to make it such a pleasant place to live.



Ribwort. All the flowers in the verges attract pollinators. There is national

concern about their decline, so every little space that can provide them with a habitat is valuable.



Cow parsley, with its heady perfume, flowers abundantly here on Ashfield Lane.



Herb Robert, a member of the geranium family, is another familiar sight at the side of the road, as well as along woodland paths.



Vetch, a member of the pea family, is widespread on the common.

And finally

Two residents who benefit from the richness of the verges.



A yellow-and black longhorn beetle - although the adults feed on pollen and nectar, they also pollinate the flower.



A female brown heath robber fly - this is one of the aerial assassins of the insect world. The larger ones will prey on butterflies and damselflies. All part of Nature's rich tapestry!

[Please click here to view more photos of flowers and this week's gallery.](#)

Thanks for this week's photos to Don Drage, Kevin Jennings, Graham Pedgrift, 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.



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

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