



This is one  
of twenty  
“Tales from  
the  
Commons.”

## A Brilliant Meteor!



It is hard to imagine the well-lit roads of our Common before street lighting, when the stars would have been very visible in the darkness.

This description comes from a newspaper report of 6<sup>th</sup> December 1862. A gentleman, crossing the Common in a carriage at about 5.55 pm, saw a *‘magnificent and most brilliant meteor pass across the heavens as nearly as possible from east to west ... very slowly and then burst.’*

He reported that it *“so illuminated the inside of the carriage that I could easily have read a newspaper”*.

He stopped at the Sydney Arms and found great excitement among Lord Sydney’s tenants who were there attending the rent-day feast and had come outside to observe it. One old man said he would rather have missed the feast than the sight of the meteor.

In 1892 the Board agreed to the erection of 10 lamp posts, on condition that they were placed in sockets so they could be removed in summer.

The Act that protects the Commons made no provision for funding.

If you would like to support our work of maintaining the 180 acres, please visit our website [www.chislehurstcommons.uk](http://www.chislehurstcommons.uk) or go to PayPal Giving at



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