



This is one of  
twenty tales  
in our  
Midwinter  
Miscellany



## Stealing a Goose from the Common



In the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, Lord Camden, the Lord Chief Justice, who owned Camden Place, caused resentment in Chislehurst by his enclosures of common land. A well-known folk tale is attributed to his actions.

*“Tis bad enough in man or woman,*

*To steal a goose from off the common.*

*But surely he’s without excuse*

*Who steals the common from the goose?”*

Webb, in his 1899 ‘History of Chislehurst’, tells the story of a man asking Lord Camden, **“Suppose a man were to steal a goose from the common, my lord, what would you do with him?”**

**“Bring him to me and I’ll soon settle that!”** was the reply.

**“Yes, but suppose a man stole the common from the goose?”**

**“That is quite a different matter – quite different!”**

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**