

## **Galleywood Common** Association



### **Chairman's report**

#### **AGM**

The 27th AGM was held on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2014, in the Lodge Room at The Keene Hall Galleywood, with 21 Members present. At the meeting the existing Officers and committee were re-elected. Those present were asked to give their view on how the woodland areas of The Common should be managed. The consensus was that things should stay basically as they are, with no heavy intervention. It was considered important to keep the well-used paths clear and passable so that the woodland areas could be enjoyed.

The teg volunteer group were thanked for their work on opening up the walk around Brick Kiln pond with three bridges, a set of steps and two bench seats. This was seen to be a good example of how woodland areas can be managed in a sensitive manner.

The formal part of the meeting was followed by a presentation by John Cummin of photographs "A Year on the Common", then a time of chatting, enjoying refreshments and a glass of wine.

#### **Temple Farm Development**

A new planning application by the International Bible Study Association for the Temple Farm development is expected to be made in August. It is not expected, at this stage, that this will involve any widening of Stock Road other than a new junction at Bakers Lane.

#### **Margaretting Flood Defences**

Work on the extension of paving along Margaretting Road to the Heritage Centre will be carried out in two phases the first of which is adjacent to the road and will be carried out by ECC. Once this is done CCC will undertake the second phase to the Heritage Centre.

#### **Notice Boards on The Common**

CCC have been asked to consider replacing the existing boards which merely list the by-laws with something which gives more interesting information on the history of The Common, its race course, golf course and flora and fauna

#### **Race Course Fencing**

Concern has been expressed about the fencing getting overgrown and obscured by vegetation, particularly along Stock Road. It is hoped that CCC and teg volunteers will be able to address this problem during the year.

#### **The Blue Tits Nest**

We live on Galleywood Common and had blue tits nesting in a bird box in our garden. It was great to see the process of the parents making the nest and the subsequent babies hatching, and noisily seeking to be fed, which kept the parents busy, but the interesting thing, to our great surprise we saw a female sparrow helping to feed the chicks, and the parents seemed quite happy to let her.

If anyone has heard of this before please let me know - Susan 01245 287911

### *Nature Notes for the period March to May 2014*

March, and Spring has Sprung. There was no rain during the first fortnight, and it was a whole month later than usual that I heard a Lesser Spotted Woodpecker tapping out his love message, delayed no doubt because so many of the older trees had been damaged or brought down in the winter storms that went on until late February.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> I heard the Chiff Chaff, the first of the returning summer migrants followed closely by the Black Cap and Lesser Whitethroats distinguishable by a short stutter before a quick short song.

We have had a good show of daffodils this year and the blackthorns bright white flower shows up well in the still leafless hedges.

On March 21<sup>st</sup> we had over an inch of rain, the first significant rain for over three weeks, which served to top up the pools of standing water

The following week we had some wintery showers. During the past winter no snow settled and although we have had a few mornings when the puddles have been frozen over, no ice formed on any of our larger ponds,

At 9am on the 1<sup>st</sup> April I sat for five minutes on one of the recently installed benches by Marvens Ponds (P3). It was a beautiful sunny morning and there were Mallard and Moorhens on the pond, and in the trees I heard at least a dozen birds ranging from Blackbirds to Wrens, Chiff Chaffs to Robins.

On the top of the Common the gorse has put on its usual wonderful show at this time of year and foxgloves are flowering round the Churchyard.

By the end of the month the Mayflower was out on the Hawthorn and patches of Blue Bells appeared. Everything seems to be earlier this year. Whereas last Spring was the coldest on record this Spring has been the warmest following a mild winter.

Although we had some beautiful days in May we had some heavy down pours which kept the ponds well filled and there are still large areas of standing water which we would have expected to be dry by now.

The ducks seem to have enjoyed the Spring and there have been at least three different broods of ducklings and some baby moorhens. By the end of the month the yellow iris were in flower round the big pond. The elder bushes are full of flower and the cow parsley is 3' tall. It really has been a wonderful Spring with the trees full of early morning bird song. I even heard a cuckoo in April, Unfortunately this has now become a rare sound on the Common.

*Artin Cornish*

### **Membership Renewals**

There are still a few membership renewals outstanding for 2014. We really value your support which gives us more 'clout' on planning issues, care of The Common etc. Please renew as soon as possible

Annual membership £2, life membership £15. Treasurer Brian Blunden, The Robins, Birches Walk, Galleywood CM2 8TZ, cheques payable to Galleywood Common Association.

If you would like to receive the newsletter electronically or have any items for inclusion in the next issue please e-mail me at [pat.malcolm@talktalk.net](mailto:pat.malcolm@talktalk.net)

Pat Stuart - Editor