

Galleywood Common Association



Annual General Meeting

Our AGM will be held on Tuesday 30th May in the Lodge Room at the Keene Hall 8pm. – 9.30. Your Committee are willing to stand for re-election at the AGM.

We do hope you will attend and invite others, all welcome. We have a very short AGM followed by a talk from Malcolm Lees, Open Spaces Society. We then enjoy chatting whilst being served with refreshments, wine, soft drinks etc.

Chairman's Report

1. Chelmsford Local Plan.

The plan circulated by Chelmsford City Council for comments by the 11th May 2017 has been endorsed by GCA.

The Common is affected by proposals to create a Green Corridor along the Wid Valley from the railway line to Stock Road from Buttsbury to Chelmsford which includes our Common. This Green Corridor would be treated in a similar way to the work done along the Chelmer Valley with access by cycleways and footpaths. Any green wedges in the Wid Valley not already in Green Belt would be given Green Belt status.

2. Galleywood Green Spaces

The Greening Galleywood Project started in 2007 was followed by a 10 year legacy programme to continue work on the key sites chosen for the project.

This year sees the end of the 10 year legacy programme, but the Parish Council will continue looking after our environment with their Green Spaces programme. This approach is wider than the few key sites chosen for the Greening Galleywood project. Now all green spaces in the village are identified and an annual plan drawn up for the work necessary to maintain and enhance our environment.

Nature Notes Spring 2017

The storms of February continued into the first days of March with little respite. Although it remained windy, we had some beautiful days with exceptionally high temperatures. We were advised by the MET office that we had had the driest autumn and winter since 1995.

By the middle of the month the chiffchaff had returned, the blackthorn had erupted along the hedgerows and we have seen many daffodils and snowdrops in the undergrowth.

This is really a lovely time of year with the fresh green leaves on the trees and the gorse really coming into its own, and little clumps of bluebells and cow parsley along the hedge bottoms.

There were many beautiful, if somewhat chilly early mornings with occasional calls from the pheasant and a great number of "HA HA HA" "yaffles" from the green woodpecker. The green woodpecker is sometimes called a yaffle because of its call. We had hardly any April showers and a lot of sunshine which encouraged the hawthorn to flower and produce its "May Flower" before the beginning of May. I think the old saying 'don't cast a clout before May is out' must refer to the month rather than the flower on the trees as we have certainly had some very cold winds in early May blowing in from the north east across the north sea.

I had reported to me that the Nightingale was singing on the Common on the 9th May but I have yet to hear a cuckoo this year. There are mallards and moorhens on the pond and plenty else to see and hear, so come and enjoy this wonderful time of year on your Common

Artin Cornish