



Epsom Common Association

Est. 1974 Patron:- The Worship the Mayor of Epsom & Ewell

www.epsomcommon.org.uk

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2010

Hello everybody,

After the long and hard winter there are definite signs that Spring is on its way. It is time to complete the preparations for all the work that will need to be carried out on the Common this year. However, the Stew Pond like all ponds has been silting up and is now too shallow to provide a healthy habitat for the fish. Investigations have been carried out by the Environment Agency and a number of solutions suggested. A preferred option has been agreed that will, not only provide a suitable habitat for the fish, but will also provide a number of mini habitats for other wildlife. The first problem is of course to obtain funding for the project. The Fishery Officer from the Environment Agency who has been responsible for the Project so far, has agreed to come and give a talk on this project to our members at our A.G.M.- see the details below. We are very grateful to Tanya, so why not come and hear how it is hoped to overcome some of the expected problems, and how we hope the future Stew Pond will look.

Meantime, all the work that is required to meet the 10 Year Plan's requirements, will need to be carried out. So, also at our A.G.M., Stewart Cocker (E&E.B.C.'s Countryside Management Team's Manager), will be giving us an illustrated talk on how well the requirements of the plan have been met so far, and 2010's plans. He will also, I am sure, give some details of the work he would like our members to carry out.

Your committee would like to thank all our members who give their time to help maintain and improve our Common, for the benefit of everybody.

Our 35th A.G.M. will take place on 20th April, please come to this meeting, hear and if you wish, ask questions about what has been achieved in 2009 and what is planned. Any nominations for the posts of Chair Person, Vice Chair Person, EcoVols Leader, Treasurer or Secretary, should be sent to me with details of the Proposer, a Secunder and the Nominees agreement.

Thank you all.

Vic. Hayden (Chairman)

35th Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 20th April 2010 at 8pm

Christ Church Hall, Christ Church Road, Epsom

Following the formalities - Reports by the Chairman and Treasurer, and the election
Of the committee for 2010/2011 - there will be two illustrated talks

Renovation of the Stew Pond

By Tanya Houston (Environment Agency Fisheries Officer)

Half Way into the Commons 10 Year Plan

By Stewart Cocker (E.E.B.C. Countryside Management - Manager)

Refreshments available after the talks - Doors open 7.45pm

E.C.A. Membership 2010

Subscriptions are now due for 2010, and we would be grateful for prompt payment, either directly to your road representative or in person at the A.G.M.

The subscriptions are the same as 2009 - £2 for an individual and £3 for a family. Postal members please send your renewals to Vic. Hayden, 27, The Greenway, Epsom, KT18 7HX with an extra £1 for the postage.

Would those who pay by Standing Order please check the amounts they are paying.

DIARY OF WALKS - DIARY OF WALKS

Please note, all walks start from the Stew Pond Car Park
Wear suitable footwear, and if possible bring a pair of binoculars

Saturday 29th May - 7am start - Early Morning Bird Walk

Join bird expert Tony Quinn for a walk across the Common to see, and hear a variety of bird species both resident and visitors.

Saturday 3rd July - 11am start - BUTTERFLY STROLL

This Annual search for the elusive Purple Emperor will be led by Howard Whiting.

Help him also find, identify and record other butterflies, moths and invertebrates that live on our Common - we suggest you may like to bring a snack on this walk.

Saturday 10th July - 2pm start - WILD FLOWER WANDER

Eileen Taylor will lead this popular walk to find and identify many of our wild flowers, and other botanical delights which can be found on our Common.

ECOVOLS

CONSERVATION TASKS

Horton Heath - Sunday 18th April & Monday 19th April

We'll be working to maintain the heather patches within the heath, pulling out any young saplings that might shade out the area. We'll also be thinning out trees around the mature oaks on the edges of the heath. Meet at 9.30am daily at Christ Church car park.

West Heath - Sunday 16th May & Monday 17th May

We continue working along a small ride between the two open areas of the heath. We'll be clearing around larger oaks and opening up some sunny glades along the ride. Meet at 9.30am daily at the notice board inside the Wells Road entrance.

If you've not been to one of our conservation tasks, why not come and help out. There are lots of tasks to suit varying abilities.

CHARCOAL

Our April burn has been rescheduled to April 11th to avoid the Easter weekend.

Do support our conservation tasks by buying our locally produced lumpwood charcoal or charcoal fines for the garden. You can buy charcoal and fines direct from the ECA at £5.00 a bag - contact John Turner. Alternatively they are for sale at: The Lower Mole Trust, Horton Country Park, The Old Moat Garden Centre, Horton Lane and The Ewell Court Garden Centre.

EPSOM COMMON ASSOCIATION

Chairman - Vic Hayden, 27 The Greenway, Epsom KT18 7HX. t: 01372 812399 e: chairperson@epsomcommon.org.uk

Vice Chair & ECOVOLS Leader - John Turner, 10 Hookfield, Epsom KT19 8JG.

- t: 01372 722580 m: 07729 235559 e: ecovols@epsomcommon.org.uk

Treasurer - Marilyn Day, 78 Manor Green Road, Epsom KT19 8LN. t: 01372 743606

Council Representative - Cllr Mike Richardson, Woodcote Ward

Committee Members (in addition to the above named) - Kathy Belcher (WRA), Cynthia Blunden (Secretary), Stewart Cocker (E&EBC), Frank Golding, David King, Roger Newman, Nick Owen (LMCMP), Tony Quinn, Eileen Taylor.
