



Epsom Common Association

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

www.epsomcommon.org.uk

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2018

Epsom Common Day

As you doubtless already know, we chose the one day of seriously bad weather this summer for Epsom Common Day 2018, so were forced to cancel the event; the wind would have made going ahead potentially dangerous. This was of course very disappointing, but we set about salvaging what we could. Despite them incurring considerable trouble and expense, our suppliers and performers have been incredibly generous in giving us refunds, or credits for an event next year. We are very grateful for their kindness. We were also able to defray expenses by keeping materials for next year, or selling them on. The upshot is that taking the funds remaining or recovered together with the credits gives us a budget for another Common Day of about £3500. This is the same as our fund raising target for this year's event; in the end we raised rather more, although that also had to cover the cost of the crowd funding.

The committee have therefore decided that we have sufficient funds to organise another Common Day, without the need for further fund raising. Given that many individuals and organisations donated money to us specifically to stage a Common Day, we clearly have an obligation to do so. We therefore agreed that, weather permitting, we will hold a Common Day in 2019. The date is yet to be decided; we need to ensure certain performers are available and avoid major events such as the Wimbledon and Cricket World Cup finals. However we intend to have the date settled and announced within a few weeks.

With the experience gained this year, and more time to organise, we hope to be able to arrange an event that will be even better than this year's would have been, had the weather allowed. Let's hope for better weather next year.

Public Consultations

We have recently been invited to attend two consultations concerning the future of Epsom. One is a "Future40" event organised by the Borough Council seeking "to develop a long term vision for the borough." The second is a forum organised by Chris Grayling MP to discuss the pressure for additional housing and the services that would need. We intend to send a representative to both. We will try to ensure that the importance of the Common, both to the natural world and the people of Epsom, is recognised. We will also explain that the long term health of the Common requires that many of the neighbouring green spaces are preserved.

Given that the objectives of the ECA solely concern the Common, and that we have no idea of your opinions on more general development in Epsom, we should probably be cautious in expressing views on issues that will not affect the Common. We will let you know of anything significant we learn. Although by the time you read this at least one of the consultations will have taken place, we would welcome your opinions on the matter. Neither the demand for housing nor the pressure from government to build more in Epsom than the Council have planned are about to go away.

David King - Chair

The Archaeology of Epsom and Ewell

Our annual Autumn Get Together this year is a slight departure from our usual natural history talks. We are pleased to have Steven Nelson, the Chairman of the Epsom and Ewell History and Archaeology Society, present an illustrated talk on the interesting archaeology of our local area.

Tuesday November 20th 2017

Christ Church Hall, Christ Church Road, Epsom

Commencing at 8:00pm

Refreshments available after the talk – Doors open at 7:45pm

EcoVols Report

We have just two more tasks this year, so join us for some gentle exercise whilst common.



it's not too late if you'd like to get out and helping to improve the habitat of the

- **October** - Great Pond on Sunday 21st and Monday 22nd
We'll be cutting back small trees from the pond margins to improve the habitat for wading birds.
- **November** - Christ Church Glade on Sunday 18th and Monday 19th
We'll be clearing scrub and small trees from around the Scots Pines, which are roosts for birds of prey.

Our charcoal production has restarted. Apologies to any disappointed customers who were unable to buy our lumpwood charcoal, as we were prevented from having any burns in July and August due to the tinder dry conditions on the common. We hope to build up our stock in the next few months. For all you gardeners, we do have charcoal fines in stock. These have proved to be a great water retaining additive for container and pot compost during the dry weather. The small pieces of charcoal have a myriad of tiny holes throughout and these all retain water thus keeping the compost moist. Just add a handful of fines to your regular container compost. A £3.00 bag is ridiculously cheap and goes a long way. Available at The Lower Mole Trust, 2 West Park

Cattle Grazing

The Cattle Grazing project is now well established and has again been a great success; this year we hosted 20 animals between the end of May and the end of September. The herd was comprised of Angus, Belted Galloway, Dexter and Shorthorn breeds. Despite extremes of weather – first the Beast from the East to delay the start of Spring, followed by a record prolonged heat wave and drought - they thrived and did a good job of managing the pasture areas by restricting the development of scrub, thereby encouraging diversity in these areas.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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After another successful series of nature walks we plan to run a similar programme on Sundays in 2019. The Butterfly Walk was particularly successful. The fungus foray was a little disappointing as a result of the exceptionally long dry summer but you can never plan for the weather in this country! We also ran a very successful Bat Walk with close to our limit of 25 attendees. Please check the notice boards and our website for any additions to the programme made since this newsletter has been distributed.

Data Protection Policy

I am including a brief summary about The General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) which came into force on May 25th. We have developed a Data Protection Policy which can be found on the ECA website.

We hold your names and postal addresses, plus telephone numbers and email addresses if these have been provided by you. We use the information you have provided to deliver our Newsletters, send notices of our AGM and to inform you of other events we organise. Any data we hold is solely for the purpose of contacting you by newsletter, telephone or email.

Members' contact details (address, phone and email) will held be in a database, accessible only by designated members of the ECA Committee on a password protected computer and we will not pass your data to any third party.



Auditor Required

I would be very pleased to hear from any accountants amongst our members who would be able to provide some help with our account. We are looking for someone who could audit the ECA Account for our end of year report which we provide at the spring AGM. Our account is quite straightforward and our new treasurer Phil Martin is using an accounting package to manage the account. We would be very grateful for any help.

Thank you

Martin Gandy (Membership Secretary)

Epsom Common Association

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Committee members (in addition to above) Bruce Critchley, Conor Morrow (LMCMP), Stewart Cocker (E&EBC), Roger Newman, Steve Nevard and Eileen Taylor