



Epsom Common Association

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

www.epsomcommon.org.uk

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2019

Dear Member,

Epsom Common Day

As those of you who check the website will know, we plan to hold Epsom Common Day 2019 on Sunday 21st July at Stamford Green. The event will run from 11:00am to 4:00pm and we expect to have similar attractions to those planned last year. They should include a mobile farm, falconry display, music, stalls from many local conservation groups and other community organisations, etc. Christ Church will also arrange activities, particularly for children. Teas will be available from the church hall and the Lower Mole Partnership, while food and drink will be available from The Cricketers and Jolly Coopers.

If you are able to help with the event in any way do please get in touch with me. Some jobs such as delivering flyers to local houses need to be done in advance. On the day we will need people to help set up the site, run the ECA stall, sell raffle tickets, act as stewards, etc. Meanwhile if you have influence with the weather gods, please ask them to be more favourable this year.

Other news

We are making some improvements to the website, including adding an archive of past newsletters.

Last autumn a residents' parking scheme was installed on the upper part of Wheelers Lane. This was at the request of residents and the committee decided this was not a matter we should try to influence. However some of us did ask Surrey County Council to use narrow (50 mm) yellow lines as permitted in environmentally sensitive areas. However it seems that SCC failed to tell the contractor, so we now have unnecessarily wide and garish lines. We complained to Surrey Highways and our local county councillor and have been assured that the remaining lines will all be narrow; for reasons unexplained there has been a three month hiatus since the first group of lines was painted. It is a small matter, but I think most of us find yellow lines ugly so the visual impact should be minimised. Unfortunately some sign posts are essential for the scheme to be enforceable.

We also pointed out that as the lines had been painted over whatever dirt was lying on the road surface, part had immediately started flaking off. Ironical as SCC are adamant that lines cannot be removed without damaging the road surface! We told SCC that painting leaves and gravel yellow is a poor use of tax payers money. Some lengths have now been repainted; we hope at the contractor's expense.

The scheme has certainly made parking easier for Wheelers Lane residents and removed many of the chicanes of parked cars. However I fear it must have displaced the problem, perhaps in part to Stamford Green Road?

David King (Chair)

44th Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 14th May at 8:00pm

Christ Church Hall, Christ Church Road, Epsom

The Reptiles and Amphibians of Northern Surrey

An illustrated talk by Steve Langham, Chair of the Surrey Amphibian and Reptile Group (SARG)

The formal part of the evening will be held after the guest speaker's talk, with reports by the Chairperson and Treasurer, and election of the Committee for 2018/2019. The other officers and committee are willing to stand again. Nominations for any of the officer posts, or for the committee, seconded by a current member, should be submitted in writing to the Chairperson fourteen days before the AGM.

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

Subscriptions

These are now due, (£3 for local and email members and £5 for postal members) and as some members have enquired about paying by standing order we have produced a standing order bank form and the road reps will have a supply of these when they deliver this newsletter.

Our account details are:

Sort Code: 30-93-08

Account Number: 00276113

If you do set up a standing order I would appreciate it if you could let me know via the email address membership@epsomcommon.org.uk so we can update the road reps lists.

I look forward to meeting you at the AGM.

Martin Gandy (Membership Secretary)



Our volunteers have been hard at work this year working on the Common at Wells Rise, the Hazel Coupe and Horton Heath. Our April scrub clearance task at Bramble Walk is on the second Sunday/Monday as Easter falls on our usual third Sunday of the month. In May we visit Baron's Pond, slightly earlier than usual this year, to cut back some of the small trees and shrubs around the pond margins. In the summer we'll be back for the usual bracken

pulling every Tuesday evening at 7.00pm for a couple of hours on selected sites to prevent the bracken from overshadowing important heathers, grasses and wildflowers.

April - Sunday 14th and Monday 15th - Bramble Walk. Meet at the corner of Lewins Road and Bramble Walk at 9.30am daily.

May - Sunday 19th and Monday 20th - Baron's Pond. Meet at Loop Road at 9.30am daily; the site is a 10 minute walk away.

Bracken Pulling:

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| Horton Heath | - 4th & 25th June, 23rd July, 13th & 27th August |
| August Railway Meadow | - 11th June, 9th & 30th July |
| Hazel Coupe | - 18th June, 16th July, 6th & 20th August |
| Blake's Pond | - 2nd July |

Don't forget to buy our lumpwood charcoal, still great value at £5 a bag, made on Epsom Common using oak and hazel felled on Epsom and Ashted Commons, available to buy from The Lower Mole Trust, West Park Farmhouse, Horton Country Park or from the Old Moat Garden Centre, Horton Lane (where prices may vary and you may have to ask for our charcoal as they also stock other brands!).

Can I also remind all you keen gardeners about our fabulously useful Charcoal Fines. These are the smaller bits of charcoal and dust. Just add a handful to your potting compost to stop your tubs drying out in the summer heat, or use as a mulch around plants, or as slug deterrent, or as a soil improver if you are on heavy clay, or to aerate your compost if you have too many grass clippings - just so many uses. At only £3 a bag (about 5Kgs), you can't go wrong. Jumbo bags available at £5 (14Kgs) for those bigger jobs. Contact John Turner if you need more information or to buy our Fines.



We can now be found on Facebook via the link below. This is still work in progress and more content will be added. (<https://www.facebook.com/EpsomCommonAssociation>).

Cattle Grazing

We are now making preparations in anticipation of the arrival of this year's herd of cattle which is expected to be with us from late Spring to early Autumn. The grazing activity helps to maintain several areas of the Common, and we expect the usual complement of handsome beasts to complete the scene.

To volunteer to assist with the grazing project, please contact Bruce Critchley at cattle@epsomcommon.org.uk for information; alternatively, telephone 01372 742520.

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| DATES FOR YOUR DIARY | <i>Please note, all walks start from the Stew Pond Car Park unless otherwise stated and last for approximately two hours. Wear suitable footwear and clothing, and if possible bring a pair of binoculars.</i> | DATES FOR YOUR DIARY |
| | Sunday 5th May – 7:30am start – Early Morning Bird Walk | |
| | Join local bird expert Graham Cotton for a walk across the Common to see and hear a variety of bird species both resident and summer visitors. | |
| | Sunday 9th June – 2:00pm start – Wild Flower Wander | |
| | Peter Howarth from the Countryside Team will lead this popular walk to find and identify many of the more interesting wild flowers and other botanical delights to be found on the Common. | |
| | Saturday 29th June – 2:00pm start – A Walk on Ashted Common | |
| | Zuza Featherstone, from the Ashted Rangers team, will lead a walk on Ashted Common. This is an addition to our regular programme and gives our members an opportunity to discover the secrets of our next door neighbours! Meet at the Stew Pond car park as usual. | |
| | Sunday 7th July – 11:00am start – Butterfly Stroll | |
| The annual search for the elusive Purple Emperor butterfly will be led by Alison Gilry. Join her to find, identify and record other butterflies, moths and invertebrates that inhabit our Common. | | |
| Sunday 21st July – 11:00am start – Epsom Common Day | | |
| Our family event, which had to be postponed because of the bad weather last year, will be held on Stamford Green. This year is the 401st anniversary of the discovery of the Epsom Well and beginning of the Spa period. Full details will be available nearer the time. | | |
| Sunday 21st July – 2:00pm start – Bush Cricket Hop | | |
| Steve Nevard will be leading a walk on our Epsom Common Day to detect and hopefully see some of the varied species of Grasshoppers, Bush Crickets and other Insects that thrive on our Common. Meet at the ECA stall on Stamford Green. | | |

Epsom Common Association

Chair David King T:01372-722457 E:chairperson@epsomcommon.org.uk Vicechair Vacant

ECoVols Leader John Turner M:07729-235559 E:ECoVols@epsomcommon.org.uk Treasurer Phil Martin 68 Longdown Lane North, Epsom E:treasurer@epsomcommon.org.uk Secretary Cynthia Blunden Council Representative Cllr.Steve Bridger E:SBridger@epsom-ewell.gov.uk

Membership Secretary Martin Gandy M:07796-362923 E:membership@epsomcommon.org.uk

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