

## 2021 Projects on the Commons

At their December 2020 meeting, the Conservators approved the following works on the Commons to take place in 2021, subject to final detailed specifications:

- Reedmace (bulrush) removal at the original Marlpit pond in Rusthall, which is becoming choked with vegetation. This is the pond with a Great Crested Newt population, so the Warden will ensure that the work follows expert conservation guidance to avoid any disruption.
- Reedmace (bulrush) removal at Bracken Cottage pond next to the path between Nevill Park and Hungershall Park. This is another site where the regular pond survey has identified the need for remedial work this year.
- Installation of sleeper steps down to the newly cleared Marlpit ponds.
- Construction of a bund and ditch at the edge of Fir Tree Road car park. A number of the wooden posts marking the edge of the car park need replacement, which is very costly. The Warden has proposed adopting the approach taken on Ashdown Forest of building a bund and ditch to prevent vehicles moving from the car park onto the Common.
- Holly clearance behind Fir Tree Road car park between the bat cave clearing and the path to the Spa Roundabout.
- Holly clearance on a knoll between the paths going down from Wellington Rocks toward Castle Road and the Lower Cricket Pitch. This will reveal a group of oak trees which were a commemorative planting for George VI's coronation in 1937.
- Two further days of cherry laurel clearance.
- Remedial work on a very rutted stretch of track near Wellington Rocks.
- Additional hedging around the Pantiles car park at the lower end of Major York's Road.
- Seeding wildflower areas with yellow rattle to weaken the grass and encourage other wildflowers to thrive.

All the above projects will be financed by The Friends and the Freehold Tenants. The Friends and Freehold Tenants are also contributing most of the cost of the new Tunbridge Wells and Rusthall Commons website development project.