



January 2025

# News from the Commons



Dear Neighbours,

We hope you all had a lovely Christmas and with January just hours away, it seems the perfect time to reflect on the last month on Commons, here are your updates from December...

- We have now received the annual fungi survey report, produced by Martin Allinson and are delighted to report that the Commons has been designated a regionally important site for wax cap fungi.
- Ecological enhancement work continued at Brighton Lake with another day of work from our fantastic contractor, Aquamaintain. If you haven't popped over to see the pond recently, I would really encourage you to do so, it is looking so much better already (see pic).
- In January, more tree works are scheduled for Rusthall Common as we continue to battle the impact of ash dieback, Range Dan explains:

"I completed a survey in June which assessed the percentage of leaf cover on each tree as this is a clear indicator of rate of decline, and then a repeat survey in October/November to look at the extent of fungal issues and how the structure of the tree reacts to wind and weather events. The results of these two surveys have determined that quite a few of the remaining roadside ash along the Rusthall Road, Langton Road and Coach Road are now of sufficient concern to warrant significant safety mitigation works. Unfortunately one of the areas where we need to remove quite a lot of trees is directly opposite the Sunnyside Hall and the Tarry Path. We will be removing approximately 22 of the large ash in that area in one go and this will of course be potentially distressing for some residents as it will be changing the skyline quite significantly. I am working on a plan for replanting that specific area with replacement trees including disease resistant elms and other species. Over time this will improve the biodiversity, beauty and wildlife value, but it is going to feel sad in the meantime".

- In better news, our next volunteering session is taking place this Saturday, 4th January with details available here: <https://twcommons.org/events/> and as a reminder, Ranger volunteering takes place every Wednesday from 10am, if you are interested in joining please email [info@twcommons.org](mailto:info@twcommons.org)

Gemma and Ranger Dan

**TW** Tunbridge Wells &  
**RC** Rusthall Commons

