



December 2024

# News from the Commons



Dear Neighbours,

Welcome to December on the Commons! November brought with it the most glorious coloured leaves on the trees, we experienced stunning sunrises and sunsets and hats and gloves were dug out of drawers and cupboards.

We hope you are enjoying the changing seasons on the Commons, here are your monthly updates...

- We hosted a fantastic guided fungi walk and talk on Tunbridge Wells Common with fungi expert, Martin Allison. 36 different species were spotted including a 6 varieties of wax caps (see pic).
- Stage one of our ecological enhancement works to Brighton Lake started with the removal of 4.6 tonnes of invasive curly water weed! Using a specialist boat the weed was collected on its forks and collected for composting. Unfortunately a couple of invasive American signal crayfish were found at the same time, these pesky blighters are not great news for the pond and its wildlife, and there is no easy or successful way to remove them, but we are working with the Environment Agency to get guidance and advice.
- Our thanks to Town & Country Housing for litter picking on the Common on 19th November as part of their allocated volunteering day.
- Dan continues to monitor and rework the water drainage measures on the Commons, he and his team of volunteers have been digging ditches and small holding pools, all measures to attenuate rainwater and hold back the leaf litter and soils.
- While not the most glamorous of topics, waste management is an important part of keeping our Commons clean and tidy. In a bid to reduce graffiti on our bins, Dan has sourced new litter bin designs that make unpleasant scribbling a bit more challenging, you will see these new bins popping up across the Commons, replacing the old style design where appropriate.
- Storm Bert certainly decided to play havoc on the Commons with lots of work and stress for Dan and his tree contractors. The winds actually managed to rip the main door, of the public toilets, off its hinges! As a reminder, during storm conditions it really is safer to stay at home, rather than walk on the Commons.
- Our next volunteering session is taking place this Saturday, 7th December 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

