



March 2025

News from the Commons



Dear Neighbours,

At last there are signs of Spring on the Commons and the sun is making an appearance. Here are your updates from the Commons for February...

- February started with a flurry of activity as our contractors helped kick off a number of the Freehold Tenant and S106 funded projects. All of the projects had roughly the same aims, to remove and coppice the poor quality regenerative growth of holly, sycamore and birch that has been allowed to grow quite out of control over the last 20-30 years. Removal of the trees will bring a variety of benefits such as restoration of vistas, revealing significant trees giving them a better chance of reaching veteran status, encouraging the herb/grass species to grow, providing better habitat and foraging areas for insects, birds, bats etc enhancing biodiversity. We are delighted with the work that has been completed....have you managed to spot where we've been busy?
- The date for the Friends of the Commons' funded free forest school on Rusthall Common has now been confirmed as Thursday 10th April. We are delighted to welcome back Kent High Weald Partnership who will be running all of the activities. Do pop along with your little people and join the fun. More details are available here: <https://twcommons.org/events/forest-school-fun-on-rusthall-common/>
- The fabulous volunteers have been working hard on the Commons come rain or shine (mostly rain to be fair!). They have assisted with lots of litter picking, scrub clearances, scything and most importantly this month, clearing all of the contaminated soil and ash from the Rusthall Bonfire site, to enable the ground to recover. If you have any thoughts on how we could make better use of this meadow area, we'd be delighted to hear from you.
- On 23rd February a small group of volunteers helped marshal at the Tunbridge Wells half marathon, in exchange for a donation to the Friends of the Commons. If you'd be interested in joining us next year, please do let me know.
- The bumblebee surveyors will be kicking off their season of surveying on the 12th March, how exciting to think we might have got through the Winter slog eventually.
- I was invited to St Paul's Primary School on 26th February to participate in their Year 4, 5 & 6 COP 25 activities, raising awareness of our environmental impacts and discussing how to better look after the planet by considering our carbon footprint, how to enhance biodiversity and how to campaign and get our voices heard. It was fantastic to join such an enthusiastic group of students.

Gemma and Ranger Dan

TW Tunbridge Wells &
RC Rusthall Commons

Before and after pics behind Bull's Hollow.

