



July 2025

News from the Commons



Dear Neighbours,

Welcome to your July News from the Commons, sharing news about our ecology, volunteering and other adventures.

- We have been contacted by a fabulous volunteer from Butterfly Conservation Kent who confirms we have a colony of rare white-letter hairstreak butterflies on a field elm tree near the new Bumps path on Rusthall Common. White-letter hairstreaks are of high conservation priority and recorded as vulnerable, so we will be focusing on managing the tree and immediate area as best we can for these beautiful species. For more info: <https://butterfly-conservation.org/butterflies/white-letter-hairstreak>
- We have also had a consultant out surveying the population of great-crested newts in the Marlpit pond on Rusthall Common and to our delight we have 21 newts that call the pond their home. At the moment the pond is pretty overrun with invasive bogbean, despite sterling work by volunteers over the winter, so we'll be tackling this even more come the Autumn.
- On 10th June we hosted a group land managers from Wimbledon & Putney Commons, Banstead Commons, Malvern Hills and Ashdown Forest. It was great to show off our Commons and to discuss best practise, new project ideas and share news. Our visitors were suitably impressed "our team came away being blown away with what you achieve".
- Ranger Dan has hosted the first of three visits by judges from Britain In Bloom and we hope that they will be leaving suitably impressed too!
- Our next volunteering session takes place this Saturday, meeting on the meadow alongside Common View at 10am...please do come along and help if you can.

Wow, its so very hot out there, enjoy the Commons but please take care of yourselves and your four-legged friends.

Gemma and Ranger Dan

Pics are of the field elm supporting the white-letter hairstreaks and our land manager visitors.

TW Tunbridge Wells &
RC Rusthall Commons

