



October 2025

News from the Commons



Dear Neighbours,

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

- Kindly funded by the Friends of the Commons, our annual fungi survey is well underway and our guided fungi walk and talks are in the diary. There are still tickets available for the 21st October walk, here is the booking link, if this is of interest: [Eventbrite tickets](#)
- I'm delighted to report that we have been successful in an application to the Borough Council's Strategic Plan Reserve for funding a further year of disease resistant elm tree planting across both Commons. This project is essential to support local and regional biodiversity (especially our white-letter hairstreak butterfly populations), to aid carbon absorption, flood prevention, improve air quality and highlight community engagement, it really is a win, win!
- We have started working closely with Butterfly Conservation Kent, who have been advising us on projects to enhance the ecology for our winged friends. We are very hopeful that next year will see lots more butterflies attracted to the Commons, so fingers crossed.
- This year has been a mast year for acorns, when our oak trees have produced an exceptionally large number of seeds. Mast years occur every 2-5 years and aim to overwhelm predators so more seeds survive, the cycle also conserves the tree's energy and is often triggered by climate cues.
- Open now until the 11th January, the Amelia is currently showing David Blandy's new short film (20 minutes) called Commons. It features beautiful filming on Rusthall Common, including Bull's Hollow, along with objects from the Amelia Scott collections.
- A reminder from Ranger Dan to add the iNaturalist app to your phones, to identify, record and monitor flora and fauna on the Commons. The data collected is automatically submitted to the Kent Biodiversity Records Centre, and used to inform planning decisions.

Gemma and Ranger Dan

Pics are of the bumper acorn crop and new litter pickers provided by the Friends (from the Community Climate grant).

TW Tunbridge Wells &
RC Rusthall Commons

