



Left - by Adam Palferman, Top Right - by Paul Robinson, Lower Right - by Jan Rubin

Horsell Common Preservation Society Trustees and Volunteers remember...

Our late dear Queen Elizabeth II expressed a wish for trees to be planted to create a "green canopy" as part of her Platinum Jubilee Celebrations. Inspired by this wish, we have planted an avenue of hawthorn trees leading from Heather Farm car park to the bridge across the river Bourne. On Tuesday 15th November, a team of conservation volunteers who work on the Common throughout the year, planted 19 trees. Despite the pouring rain, there was great good humour even in the muddy conditions. We were delighted to welcome Lucy Lee to plant the final tree. Lucy is the chief advisor to UK Conservation with WWF. As we stood watching Lucy, it gave us all a quiet moment to reflect on the long reign of the Queen, her love of the countryside and her desire for a greener world.

Caroline Hughes, Editor

WWF supports conservation work on Horsell Common

By Lucy Lee,
Chief Advisor, UK Conservation Programs, WWF

(We were delighted that Lucy Lee could plant the final hawthorn tree. Her article below shows the importance of conservation work in the UK at large and locally too. Ed)

My previous work-related visits to the common have been on WWF-UK staff volunteering days removing invasive pine, so it's great to be planting a native hawthorn instead. It is a fitting tribute to the Queen and a contribution to the green canopy in her memory.

WWF's recently published 2022 Living Planet Report shows an average 69% decline in the size of wildlife populations globally since 1970. As the UK is one of the most nature depleted countries in the world, these are trends we sadly see mirrored in the UK, with some species being particularly hard hit, such as birds.

So it's fantastic to visit sites like Horsell Common, and see the work of the Horsell Common Preservation Society, focused on restoring a mosaic of rich and diverse habitats, including lowland heathland -which once covered vast areas of Southern England and is now one of Europe's rarest types of habitat. It holds a special place in my heart, as it was the focus of my university dissertation many years ago! Sites such as this are essential for the recovery of species of European Importance – it's great to see breeding populations of Nightjar, Dartford Warbler, Woodlark and the Silver Studded Blue butterfly supported by the heathland here.

My role at WWF is to lead our UK conservation work. Our vision is for UK land, rivers and seas to be managed so that nature and people thrive together, while tackling the climate crisis. Our work focuses on land outside of protected areas, the majority of which (70%) is used for agriculture. Through our work with business, local delivery partners and communities we are working to show how barriers to recovering nature and mitigating climate change can be overcome even in areas of intensive food production. We use this evidence to advocate for a policy and legislative framework that will enable the delivery of net zero and the restoration of nature. We focus at landscape scale, aiming to reduce the outside pressure on the protected sites network and connectivity between them.

Only by working together will we be able to restore nature, mitigate and adapt to climate change and ensure that people thrive. Collectively we can bring our world back to life.



Photo: David Robbins



Photo: Robin Hoyle

News from the Common

by Jeremy Dalton, Estate Manager

With the extended period of dry weather and exceptional heat over last summer the Thames Basin heaths were all at extreme risk from wildfire. To our great relief, Horsell Common escaped any serious blazes. Thanks to the actions of some local residents, a small number of campfires were dealt with very swiftly by Surrey Fire and Rescue before they could escalate. Unfortunately, many other sites were badly affected. Pirbright Ranges in particular lost around 650 hectares of heathland to wildfire this year.

We were able to take some advantage of the dry spell and have chipped all of the pine which was thinned from woodlands near the Sandpit in 2020. After a couple of years of seasoning the logs were at the perfect moisture content to process. All of the biomass which heats the buildings at Heather Farm now comes from our sustainable woodland management work. The solar panels which were installed in 2021 have also proved a great success and produced around two thirds of the electricity we used in 2022. The facility at Heather Farm and excellent dog walking area continues to be a very popular destination. I love seeing so many different types of dogs out and about with their owners, especially on a sunny day!

Every year there is a survey of breeding birds at Horsell Common. This year the survey confirmed that all three of the most at-risk species of ground nesting birds associated with heathland (Dartford Warbler, Woodlark and Nightjar) were nesting at Horsell Common. The work of our regular volunteers and corporate groups under the supervision of Senior Ranger Rupert Millican has been pivotal in maintaining habitat for these birds. There have also been reports of the rare and specialist butterflies, the Silver Studded Blue and the Grayling. This is great news and we have been consulting with experts on the most effective ways to look after some small areas of very specialized habitat to help these threatened species.

Surrey council have managed to start the main ground-works work at Wheatsheaf Common this year. This area has been modified to accommodate flood water, helping to protect some areas of housing which have been experiencing flooding. Although climate change is responsible for hotter and drier conditions, more extreme weather events are also becoming more frequent. The new pools have been designed specifically to accommodate water

from flash flooding during sudden heavy downpours. As well as improving flood defences, the new habitats will be of great benefit to local wildlife, amphibians, reptiles, and many invertebrates will benefit from a more varied landscape. An ecological report carried out before work began showed a net gain for biodiversity. There has also been an ecologist on site to make recommendations and protect wildlife while work is underway.



After a major set back due to a burst water main next to one of the new pools, the construction of the new boardwalks and paths has begun. The improved network of paths will be accessible all year round and will include sections of boardwalk crossing the seasonally flooded areas. Surrey council have agreed to plant 2500 new trees along the A320 and the Northern woodland edge. The species selected for planting have been chosen for their wildlife and amenity value. I'm really looking forward to seeing wildlife moving in, trees and grasses establishing again, and to seeing people being able to enjoy the improvements and new paths in 2023.



Max makes sure Jeremy gets a long walk on the Common early in the morning!

Volunteering

By Rupert Millican, HCPS Senior Ranger

During Spring and Summer, our volunteers keep away from the open heath, to avoid disturbing rare ground nesting birds while they rear their chicks. Instead, they are busy in our woodlands widening footpaths to improve public access, thinning out smaller trees to boost biodiversity by letting more light reach the ground, and removing pesky invasives such as rhododendron and laurel.

This year, we made major improvements to some of the paths on Pyrford Common. The volunteers went in first to remove small trees and woody scrub, followed by the tractor and toppler mower to finish the job off (see photos). We received many positive comments from local people passing by who were thankful for the improvements we made to their local greenspace. There is still much work to do at Pyrford, keeping virulent holly in check, and we will return next year to resume the offensive!



Our volunteers thinned-out large sections of woodland around the Northeast perimeter of Wheatsheaf Common, and next to the recreation ground, completed in advance of works to create the wetland and flood alleviation scheme. This will further enhance the site for amenity and public access. As on Pyrford Common, holly has taken hold

here, and may need more cutting-back in future years. We hope that removing a large proportion of this woodland understorey will also help to discourage anti-social behaviour on the Wheatsheaf common.

As part of our drive to operate in a more environmentally sensitive and sustainable way, we have purchased a wood-chipper and equipped one of our trucks with a tipping rear. We can now efficiently remove all cut material from the heath without using trailers or a telehandler, both of which are time consuming and cumbersome, and tend to damage the ground. Instead, arisings are chipped straight from the heath into the back of the truck, taken off-site and tipped on to a pile ready for use in footpath maintenance, mulching, or composting (see photos). The cut material is completely recycled without the need for burning.



Conservation Working Parties

Volunteer with us every Tuesday morning: 10 am to 1pm.

Volunteer Sundays Dec 11th, Jan 8th, Feb 12th: 10am to 1pm

Contact : Rupert.Millican@horsellcommon.org.uk for more information and to book your place on a volunteer day.

	Volunteering hours worked					
	HCPS		Corporate		Community	
	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022
January	0	219	0	44	0	0
February	0	117	0	44	0	12
March	0	234	0	0	0	0
April	0	177	0	0	0	0
May	0	174	0	24	0	0
June	0	87	0	0	0	0
July	0	105	0	0	0	0
August	198	93	0	0	0	0
September	195	171	0	28	0	0
October	249	210	0	0	16.5	10
November	285	42	51	0	0	0
December	105	0	55	0	0	0
Totals	1032	1629	106	140	16.5	22

Having consulted with an expert from Butterfly Conservation, we have done some prescriptive mowing of heather in the model airfield area on Horsell Common (see photos). When the heather in these mown patches starts to regenerate, it will become ideal habitat for rare silver studded blue butterflies which will hopefully colonise across from already existing favourable areas immediately adjacent.



We have just moved our Belted Galloway cattle from Warren Pond back onto Grasslands where they will remain until the Spring grazing on scrub to improve habitats for wildlife. It's always fun halting the traffic on Littlewick Road to guide them across, hoping that none escape along the road in the hunt for irresistible kerb side grass! Earlier in the Summer, we hosted a very well-received 'Come and Meet the Cattle' walk on Grasslands. It was a fantastic opportunity for people to learn more about these magnificent animals, and the benefit they bring for biodiversity and conservation.



The Belties like to say hello to the conservation volunteers!

Farming on Horsell Common

By Noel Doran

Belted Galloways are beautiful animals ...

We call them Belties or Teddy Bears. I am lucky to own them, as well as the Badger Face Sheep that graze in the Horsell Common wetlands, behind the cafe.

Both Belties and Badger Face animals are ideal for maintaining common land.

Michael, my son, and I also own a large herd of Aberdeen Angus cattle. You may have seen our John Deere tractors and cattle trailers going along Philpot Lane, as Adele and I live at one end, with Michael at the other end, near the bridge.

The Belties are native animals. Scotland has kept Belted Galloway cattle for centuries. They live outdoors all year, having long shaggy hair to protect against the snow and rain; last winter I brought the pregnant cows into our farm shed to calve, but they lost weight irrespective of how much food they were given. And they were not happy because their clean shaggy hair got dirty! Four of the cows are pregnant now and will be left to calve on Horsell Common.

Belties, children call them Teddy Bears, have a varied diet. Whereas Aberdeen Angus and most cattle are happy eating grass, Teddy Bears want scrub, nettles, briars, heather, etc., to add to their grass food. In the winter months we feed them silage, but only if they need it.

Silage is grass which is cut in the Summer and then wrapped up very tightly in plastic by our John Deere and its baler. This process squeezes the oxygen out from between the grass blades, thus preserving it, in the same way that some food is preserved in vacuumed plastic.

Badger Face Sheep originated in Wales. Like Belties, they enjoy a varied diet. Being a small sized breed, they are not popular with farmers. I was embarrassed some months ago when selling Badger Face fat lambs at a farmers' mart. I got about half the price other farmers got; the auctioneer and I had a good laugh in the canteen afterwards. We still love the Badgers, especially their lambs.

I was born on a farm in Ireland. This was a mixed one, where we had cows, pigs, sheep, ducks, hens with fields of vegetables and corn. Our family was almost self-sufficient; my mum made butter and baked the bread. My children won't believe that I walked 2 miles to and from school!

Like neighbours we were all happy, healthy, secure, and very well looked after in the rural community.

In England I have businesses, which produced funds to start "hobby" farming some years ago. If you have watched Clarkson's Farm on TV, you will see that farming is not profitable. But it is a wonderful way of life.

Farming on the Common with rights of access to the public and especially in an area such as Horsell where the Common has a very high footfall, does present some problems.

Dog faeces cause cows to abort calves. Neospora is a parasite that cows can pick up from dog faeces. Last year one of our pregnant Belties aborted a calf. Fortunately, it is fairly rare. So on 15th October we had a new baby, which is out in the Common with its mum. Our Vet did a pregnancy test and we have three more cows due to calf at the end of this year.

In September 2022 a Beltie got something stuck in its throat. Fortunately, she was able to walk to the gate and get into our trailer. The Vet spent several minutes pushing a hose down the cow's mouth. Whether it was an apple, or acorns, it successfully went down into the cow's stomach. After a few days the cow was back to normal and will produce a baby later this year, fingers crossed!

(Noel Doran 07798 678910I started farming on the Common about 10 years ago. The cattle are important for the conservation work on the Common. Ed.)



Noel's Welsh Badger face sheep assisting conservation by grazing on the Wetlands

Nature Connections

By Michael Jones, Education and Engagement Officer,
Thames Basin Heaths Partnership

Connecting people with nature at Horsell Common

Hi. I'm Michael and am the Education Officer with the Thames Basin Heaths Partnership. I love nature and feel very fortunate to be able to spend most of my time sharing the wonders of our local wildlife with the community. Being amongst nature is my happy place and I am fascinated by everything I encounter. My favourite thing to do is find a nice place to sit (or lie!) and get an insect's eye view of the world. I am often out on the Common, so you may have spotted me wandering around, or marvelling at bees in the sandpit area!

We are so lucky to have special places, like Horsell Common, on the doorstep and it is such a privilege to be able to spend time with local people, playing a small part in connecting them with nature.

Throughout the summer term I have been sharing the wonders of Horsell Common with local school children, uniformed groups and adults. Here's an overview of what I've been up to: -

School groups

If you've visited Horsell Common in recent months, you may have spotted some posters on the noticeboards raising valuable awareness about the risks of heathland wildfires. These brilliant posters were designed by children from **Horsell Village School**. Their School Council came to visit the Common in the summer term to find out about some of the amazing plants and animals that make a home on the heath and learn about some of the dangers they face. It is great that the school is so interested in helping to spread the word about how we can all look after these special places.

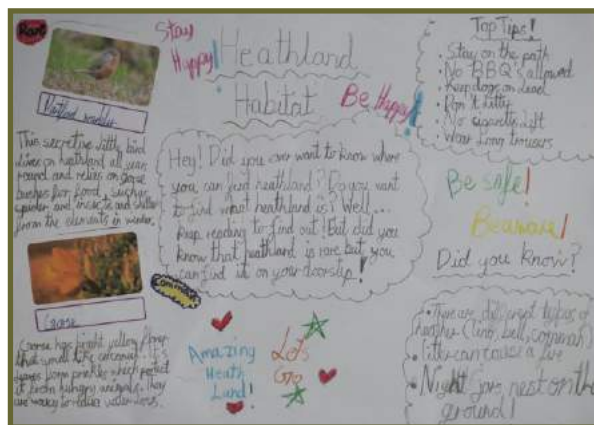
One of the teachers said, *"when the children returned to their classes they were 'buzzing' about it"* and that it was *"amazing to help the children realise the way living things can live in harmony AND to preserve that!"* What great feedback – Thank you.

I also visited **Horsell Junior School** to talk to the Year 4s about heathland and they visited the Common the following week. We all learned about heathland and its fascinating species, including magical Nightjars – birds that, by the time you read this, will be sunning themselves in Africa

for the winter – and carnivorous Sundews, whose taste for insects sets them apart from most other plants.

As we gathered around a small pond, there were audible 'wows' as dragonflies battled for the best sentry posts and one of the children saw their first ever frog! Every now and then, a newt popped up to take a quick breath – probably wondering why thirty pairs of eyes were paying it such close attention. Special times.

The children went back to school inspired by their local wildlife and wrote up their heathland adventures. Such amazing work!



Uniformed groups

I have taken several uniformed groups out on the Common – including a particularly exciting session where I took **7th Woking Cubs** out on a walk in the dark! We found out about some of the animals that come out after the sun has gone down: bats, foxes, moths and, of course Nightjars. Sadly, we didn't manage to hear any Tawny Owls, but I'm sure they were there, high up in the trees watching over us with great interest.

Adult groups

As is always the way, I get a little bit too excited by Nightjars and I ran eight (!) evening walks for locals on the Common to introduce them to these amazing birds. As the sun went down, we encountered these churring marvels, were treated to Woodcock flybys and spotted late-to-bed

Dartford Warblers. On one evening, we even saw a Hobby hunting for dragonflies in the fading light. These walks are a great way to highlight just how amazing our heathlands are and motivate people to do all they can to help look after them. Take this as an example: *"I feel much more aware of how to be a more responsible visitor and dog walker on the common. Knew nothing about Nightjars before this walk and am now a real fan!"*

Senior Ranger Rupert and I have been working with brilliant groups from **LinkAble**. They have been out on the Common bird-spotting, bug hotel building, litter picking and helping with habitat management tasks. These sessions are great fun everyone gets so much out of them. Thank you for all your help.

Get involved!

Horsell Common is an important part of the community – why don't you learn a bit more about just how special it is?



If you'd like to connect your children (or yourself!) with local wildlife, please get in touch as we offer a variety of free, fun sessions for schools and community groups – both inside and out on the heath.

Michael Jones

Education Officer – Thames Basin Heaths Partnership

tbhschools@naturalengland.org.uk

www.tbhpartnership.org.uk/schools



Two Uncommon Insects

By Andrew Halstead

Much of Horsell Common is a Site of Special Scientific Interest and a Special Protection Area on account of the heathland habitat and the plants and animals that occur there. However, interesting insects are not confined to the protected area. In 2022 there were sightings of two uncommon insects in the Heather Farm and Mimbridge Meadows area.

On 13 July 2022, Michael Jones, who is Education and Engagement Officer with the Thames Basin Heaths Partnership, spotted a bee-fly known as the Downland Villa, *Villa cingulata*, in the wetland area of Heather Farm. Until quite recently this was a rare species known from only a few places in southern England. When Surrey Wildlife Trust published 'Soldierflies, their allies and Conopidae of Surrey' in 2015 there were no records of this fly in the county. It has now become more widespread and is possibly benefiting from the warmer summers brought about by climate change. Little is known about the biology and early stages of *V. cingulata*, which is not unusual for rare insects. Rearing records from other countries suggest that the fly's larvae may develop as internal parasites of moth caterpillars or pupae.

The other infrequently seen insect, at least at close quarters, is the Purple Emperor butterfly, *Apatura iris*. A female was photographed on the Mimbridge Meadows boardwalk by Sandra Skuse on 21 July 2022. Purple Emperors spend much of their time flying around treetops, so often have to be viewed through binoculars. This butterfly feeds on honeydew excreted by aphids but is also known to have a liking for imbibing fluids from dung or carrion. Entomologists sometimes place such items in woodland rides in the hope of luring the butterfly down to ground level. The flight period is July-August when the females lay eggs on goat willow and other *Salix* species. The caterpillars feed on the foliage for a short while before finding sheltered places to overwinter. Feeding starts again in the spring and the fully fed larvae pupate in June. It is the male that gives the Purple Emperor its common name. When sunlight hits the upper surface of the wings at the right angle, there is a flash of purple across the otherwise black and white wings.



Downland Villa bee-fly © Michael Jones



Purple Emperor © Sandra Skuse

Andrew Halstead, entomologist and trustee of HCPS, does regular surveys of insects on both the open heath, open grassy areas and woodland. Insects might be small but they are very important and the Common supports a huge variety of different species. Why not join Andrew on a guided insect walk next Summer during TBHP Heath Week?

Birds on the Common

By Margot Scott

The three protected species on the common are the Dartford Warblers, Woodlarks and Nightjars.

The dartford population has done very well this year, with 15 territories including at least one on Grasslands. Woodlarks have now bred on Grasslands for several years, and for the first time this year there was also a singing male on the main common, hopefully they will be breeding in both sites next year. Nightjars were heard on the main common and on Grasslands, although their numbers appear to be reduced this year.

Two other birds associated with the common are stonechats and woodcock. Although normally very elusive and hard to see, a small number of male woodcocks were again seen displaying at dusk this spring. Stonechats are easier to spot, often perching on gorse or small trees. In recent years their numbers seem to have been depleted, but more encouragingly in spring 2022 several pairs were seen, often in the same areas as the dartford warblers.

In addition to these there were plenty of visiting winter thrushes in winter and early spring, followed by the visiting summer migrants. A further highlight was hearing a cuckoo on at least two occasions this spring, although it was just passing through. One to listen out for again in 2023!

Margo Scott, a retired vet, now a trustee of HCPS, is currently leader of the RSPB (Guildford) local group. If you go for a walk with Margo, she will soon be alerting you to the scratchy song of a Dartford warbler, or the sound of two stones knocking together indicating the presence of a stonechat.

Surrey County Bird Recorder, Richard Denyer, carries out breeding bird surveys for HCPS, and Margo along with other local keen bird watchers regularly adds bird sightings on the Common to the British Trust for Ornithology database. We are fortunate that there are many keen photographers that help us with their wonderful images.

Fungus walk and talk

By Richard Alder

A very satisfying walk, despite the damp start, with a good variety of fungi that included some surprises, especially two species that are usually more at home in the Scottish Highlands.

The fungi of Horsell Common are under-recorded because there are so few people available with enough expertise to cope with the sheer number of interesting sites in Surrey.

Sadly, there seem to be more people interested in fungi for their use as food than there are for their beauty and variety. One can't help thinking that fungi are better left as food for other wildlife rather than taken as a supplement to our already-rich diet. The pickers had denuded the common of boletes, their prime target, yet we were still able to find nearly sixty other kinds of fungi.



Blushing Bracket (*Daedaleopsis confragosa*)

Photo: Adam Palferman

We did find the iconic red and white Fly Agaric (*Amanita muscaria*) in all its glory, as well as many other examples of mycorrhizal fungi, i.e. those that have a mutual association with trees and plants, including several brittlegills, most frequently the red and yellow Coral Brittlegill (*Russula velenovskyi*) and the Yellow Swamp Brittlegill (*Russula claroflava*). There were also many milkcaps, species which exude a liquid when broken, including hundreds of the dull brown Liver Milkcap (*Lactarius hepaticus*) under Scots pines and few of the sinister-looking Ugly Milkcap (*Lactarius turpis*) under birches. The Brown Rollrim (*Paxillus involutus*) was pointed out as one of those fungi that were once sold in markets but are now known to be a slow poison, shortening the lives of those who consumed it regularly. The weirdly-shaped White Saddle is now known to have similar long-term effects.

There were plenty of examples of those fungi whose role is to break down dead tree and plant matter, amongst which a few stand out as worth a mention here. The most striking was the Green Elfcup (*Chlorociboria aeruginascens*) with its tiny, brilliant green fruitbodies, its mycelium staining the wood the same colour and making it suitable for use in marquetry.

The greasy-feeling Butter Cap (*Rhodocollybia butyracea*) was notable amongst those fungi that consume old leaf litter, whilst the False Chanterelle (*Hygrophoropsis aurantiaca*) was doing a similar job on pine needles - and not be confused with the very similar, but edible Chanterelle! The pine cones here were being broken down by two little fungi, the Conifercone Cap (*Baeospora myosura*) and the Earpick Fungus (*Auriscalpium vulgare*).

Vast numbers of Alder Scalycap (*Pholoita alnicola*) were seen clustered around defunct birch roots on the edge of a pond, and looking up, we saw brackets of the Birch Polypore or Razorstop Fungus (*Fomitopsis betulina*) and the Blushing Bracket (*Daedaleopsis confragosa*), both of which break down dead or weak trunks of birch trees.

We saw only one true parasitic fungus, and only a little of that, the dreaded Honey Fungus (*Armillaria mellea*), but much more of the harmless Sulphur Tuft (*Hypholoma fasciculare*) which it is often mistaken for it.

My three greatest surprises were a clump of the rather uncommon Brick Cap (*Hypholoma lateritium*), fruiting unwisely in the middle of a path; the impressive show of large, white Blue Spot Knight (*Tricholoma columbetta*), and a 'Scottish migrant' the Yellowfoot Pinkgill (*Entoloma turbidum*).



Honey Fungus (*Armillaria mellea*)

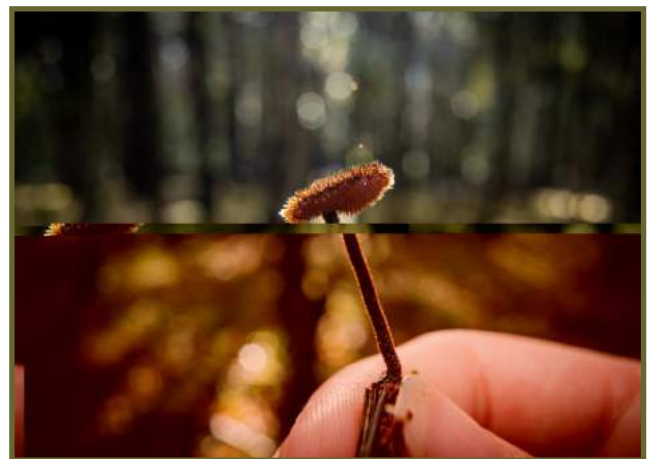
Photo: Adam Palferman

I hope that the scientific names given don't cause too much confusion if you try to look them up in books. These names are changing at an alarming rate as DNA sequencing alters the whole idea of how various fungi are related to each other; hence we sometimes cling to the 'official' English names to preserve our sanity - however odd they sometimes seem!



Green Elfcup (*Chlorociboria aeruginascens*)

Photo: Adam Palferman



Earpick Fungus (*Auriscalpium vulgare*)

Photo: Adam Palferman



Conifercone Cap (*Baeospora myosura*)

Photo: Adam Palferman

Richard Alder led a group of HCPS Members into the woods to look for fungi. Richard has been studying fungi as a hobby since 1976. He joined the British Mycological Society in 1989 and has attended their fungus forays regularly over the years. He joined the West Weald Fungus Recording Group in 1997 where he has been secretary for about 10 years, producing a program of well over 20 meetings per annum all over Surrey and West Sussex. He is also the treasurer of the Surrey Fungus Study Group.

Trustees

Introducing the new trustees

Horsell Common Preservation Society has great pleasure in welcoming Zafar Iqbal and Janie Palk as trustees.

Profile of Zafar Iqbal

I came to the UK in as a teenager in 1969 and ever since Woking has been my home. I read Chemistry at University College Cardiff (Ph.D. 1989) and have a wealth of experience in such diverse fields as scientific research, vocational training and setting up a number of highly successful community organisations relating to education, inter-faith and business development.

For the last fifteen years or so I have worked for Woking Borough Council as a Senior Policy Advisor in Community Engagement and Development and this also provided me with the opportunity to work with HCPS to develop the Peace Garden at the site of the WW1 Muslim Burial Ground.

I love working with people and supporting community initiatives. Horsell Common is a great environmental asset for the residents of Woking and I love walking and exploring it on a regular basis. It is an honour for me to be on the board of trustees of Horsell Common and look forward to continue to learn and contribute to the best of my ability .

Profile of Janie Palk

I became a member of HCPS, shortly after moving to Woking and have seen for myself the amazing transformations that have taken place, in various areas of the Common, in that time. It was obvious to me that an enormous amount of love, skill, vision, and effort was going on behind the scenes.

I'm utterly delighted to have been elected to join the team of Trustees at HCPS. It is a privilege and an honour. I hope to bring a positive, practical and constructive new eye to the Society. If I can make everything I get involved with fun too, then I'm super happy!

I trained as a doctor at St George's, ran my own "life-saving" training company, focusing on paediatric CPR, became "Senior Communications Advisor" to a multinational company and I'm now a property developer and investor.

It is so easy to take for granted the wonderful open space and diversity of nature that is on our doorstep. We are so very lucky! I just hope that in some small way, I can help make it even better for the flora and fauna, and as a result our local community too.



We wish all our members a Happy Christmas and lovely Winter walks on the Common!

Membership

By Janette Dalglish

After months of hard work the PR team are pleased to announce that the new HCPS website www.horsellcommon.org.uk is now live. This has a new look and feel with some amazing information on the flora and fauna that exists on HCPS land. Please do go and check it out.

Current Members: As always we would like to encourage you to login to your account on our membership database to ensure that your data is up to date.

Go to www.horsellcommon.org.uk/membership and use your email address to log in.

If you still pay by standing order, then the next couple of months would be the ideal time to go online and change to direct debit. You would need to purchase a new subscription (do not set up a new membership). The way the system works is that the direct debit is taken immediately but you then would not pay again until January 2024.

Please don't forget to cancel the existing standing order with your bank as we can not do this for you.

As a reminder current membership rates are £12.50 for a single membership and £15.00 for a joint membership.

If you would like to make a one-off donation this can be done via our new link on the website.

New Members: If you are reading this and are not currently a member then do sign up to support our ongoing conservation and management of this amazing piece of Woking.

www.horsellcommon.org.uk/membership