



Notice of Annual General Meeting

Dear Member

Horsell Common Preservation Society is pleased to invite you to the 2026 Annual General Meeting. This is your opportunity to meet the Trustees and other members of the Society and to hear what we have achieved in the last 12 months.

Attached is the formal Notice of the Annual General Meeting to be held on Friday 9th October 2026 at Horsell Village Hall 117 High St, Horsell, Woking GU21 4SS 7.00pm for 7:30pm

All other documents including the accounts and previous year's minutes can be found on our website. If you require hard copies then please email us on

accounts@horsellcommon.org.uk

Once the formal business has been concluded there will be a short informative talk.

Overview

During 2025, HCPS continued its work to conserve and enhance the Common for both wildlife and public enjoyment. Significant progress was made in habitat management, visitor access, community engagement, communications, and volunteering.

Estate Management and Conservation

Work across the HCPS estate continued throughout the year to protect the lowland heathland habitat and the species that depend on it. Birch and pine regeneration was removed from heather areas, largely through volunteer effort, while contractors cleared extensive areas of overgrown gorse. Invasive non-native species, including rhododendron, cherry laurel and Himalayan balsam, were also controlled.

Volunteer work parties took place every Tuesday morning, with additional sessions on the second Sunday of each month from September to February. Camberley Men's Shed provided owl and kestrel nest boxes, which were installed across the estate.

A shed in Rae's Field was refurbished for future use by community groups, and screening fencing was erected to improve the site. In the Peace Garden, birch trees were crown-lifted, heather beds replanted, and the stonework around the water feature cleaned.

Raes Barn

During the year the partnership between HCPS and SCC Green Health and Wellbeing programme gathered pace. The barn at Raes' Field was renovated by a group of young people who gained City & Guilds accreditations in the process and the whole area has been made accessible for local charity groups to thrive in this amazing open space.

Access and Infrastructure Improvements

Improving public access remained a priority. A new pedestrian entrance to Grasslands from Horsell Common Road was constructed, providing a drier alternative route to a path frequently affected by horse traffic. Path improvements were also carried out in flood-prone sections of Mimbridge Meadows and Bourne Fields.

Additional benches were provided to improve accessibility and offer places for visitors to enjoy the landscape. Following donations received in memory of Robin Hoyle and Nigel Davis, a special bench bearing the HCPS Dartford Warbler logo was commissioned for Heather Farm overlooking the wetlands.



Wildlife Monitoring and Research

The Wheatsheaf Common ponds, created as part of a flood alleviation project, are now well established and supporting a diverse range of wildlife. HCPS also worked with Thames Water to address sewage leakage affecting the Rive Ditch near the ponds.

During 2025, insect surveys were undertaken around the Wheatsheaf Ponds, while butterfly transects and reptile surveys were carried out on Horsell Common. HCPS also participated in Heath Week, organised by the Thames Basin Heaths Partnership, including guided insect walks in the Sand Pit.

Communications and Public Engagement

The Common newsletter continued to be distributed twice yearly to members, both digitally and in print. The publication featured updates from the Estate Manager and Senior Ranger, volunteering news, wildlife articles, walks, events, and contributions from the Thames Basin Heaths Partnership. The 2025 editions also included tributes to former HCPS Chair Robin Hoyle and long-serving trustee and volunteer Hannah Lane.

A new circular walk was developed, linking key sites including the Bedser Trail, Wheatsheaf Ponds, Sand Pit, Peace Garden and Bronze Age tumuli. New interpretation boards and QR-code-linked resources were produced, while popular leaflets, membership booklets and information guides were reprinted.

Guided Walks and Volunteering

Monthly guided walks were held between April and October, typically attracting 15–20 participants. Led by HCPS staff, trustees, volunteers and Thames Basin Heaths Partnership rangers, the programme covered subjects including estate management, Wheatsheaf Ponds, dawn chorus birds, insects, fungi and nightjars.

Volunteering continued to play a central role in both estate management and community wellbeing. The volunteer programme fostered a strong sense of friendship and shared purpose, and a well-attended volunteer barbecue was held in July.

Digital Media and Membership

A new partnership was established with Phil Miller of Dreaming Fish to create the YouTube series 'Surrey Uncommon'. Produced in collaboration with HCPS, the Thames Basin Heaths Partnership and Surrey Wildlife Trust, the series began at the end of 2025 and explores wildlife and the natural environment of Surrey heathlands.

Membership Subscriptions

At the AGM in October 2025 members also approved an increase in subscriptions to £20 for household membership and £15 for single membership. Please check your current standing order and amend if required.

Any queries should be emailed to accounts@horsellcommon.org.uk

Kind regards

Janette Dalgliesh (Secretary)