**Newsletter October 2020**

Dear Members and Friends,

In these very challenging times, the Commons have been a source of recreation, pleasure and solace not only for those of us who live here but also for many visitors from further afield. Initially during lock down the additional numbers of visitors created some problems with extra litter but we have been fortunate that many people stepped up and helped deal with it.

We have had lots of compliments on the state of the Commons especially after their autumn cut which was carried out by James Jolliffe. He will shortly be undertaking further work on Pallett’s Pond to clear invasive weed.

Although the regular Conservation Group sessions have been suspended for now, due to the Covid restrictions, we have been helped to carry out some of their usual tasks by a number of volunteers, on an ad hoc basis, and it has been particularly pleasing to have a few Duke of Edinburgh Awards candidates help with clearing the heather area and to keep the smaller paths open with the wheeled strimmer. It is also pleasing that we are continuing to have children from the school caring for ‘their patch’ opposite the school. Four Environment Monitors will plant more native daffodils near to the bug hotel and some near to last year’s planting. We look forward to a time when their classmates can also be involved. It is very encouraging to have young people involved and to be able to promote their interest in our environment.

Although several of our species surveys have had to be suspended for now, the general findings are that species here are doing well and we hope to encourage further initiatives in the future.

All of the above are only possible due to the community spirit of local people taking pride in our environment and helping us out physically or financially. Christine and the Committee are committed to maintaining the Commons in the best condition that we can for all species which live here. We can never be complacent though. There is always more to be done.

**AGM:** Unfortunately due to the Coronavirus restrictions we will be unable to hold our AGM in the normal way but will provide you with the opportunity to take part in a Zoom session at 7.30pm on Tuesday 24th November. **Those who wish to attend should email our treasurer, Philip Prettejohn, at**[**treasurer.hccps@gmail.com**](mailto:treasurer.hccps@gmail.com)**with the subject "AGM link please" before Sunday evening, 22nd November.** As usual all are welcome to attend, the meeting can be for an unlimited number of people. Philip will send you the relevant instructions and password.

It would also be useful if you give us prior notice of any issues you would like to raise. Holding a meeting in this way is a new experience for us and so planning beforehand is even more important than usual. You can add these to your email to Philip.

Prior to the meeting we will circulate email or paper copies of the following to those wishing to attend

* Agenda
* Chairman’s Report
* Treasurer’s Report
* Other items of business

Last year’s Minutes are on the website at <https://www.hawridgeandcholesburycommons.org/new-page-2>

**Committee Membership:** You will be given the opportunity to vote for the members of the Committee either at the Zoom meeting or, if you are reluctant to take part in this type of meeting, by using a proxy vote. This can be given to a member of the current Committee or to any member who will be taking part in the meeting.

Current Committee:

Chairman - Lindsay Griffin

Vice-Chairman – David Barnard

Treasurer – Philip Prettejohn

Members – Nick Brown; John Caple; Isobel Clark; David Dennis; Sarah Higgins; Mark Hobbs; Rebecca Walton; Tim Watts; Janet Hopkinson (co-opted)

**There will be two vacancies on the Committee**

Chairman: As I will have served as Chairman for 3 consecutive years I will stand down, in accordance with our Constitution, though I intend to stay on the Committee.

Vice-Chairman: After a record breaking 41 years on the Committee, in which he served for 3 years as Chairman and 12 years as Vice-Chairman, David Barnard has decided to stand down from the Committee. As well as spending many hours on the Commons at working parties and regularly monitoring the work that needs doing David has been a fund of knowledge and expertise. He will be greatly missed on the Committee.

Fortunately, Mark Hobbs is prepared to stand for the position of Chairman; Lindsay Griffin will stand for the position of Vice-Chairman; Janet Hopkinson, who has been a co-opted member this year will stand for re-election to the Committee; and David Dennis will stand for the position of Minutes Secretary which has been vacant for some time.

The remaining current members are all prepared to stand for re-election.However if you are interested in joining the Committeeplease get in touch with me [lindsaygriffin@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lindsaygriffin@yahoo.co.uk) or Tel 758 440. We always need people with a variety of skills to fulfill the roles that we undertake. Whatever your strengths it is highly likely that we can use them!

**Website:** After the meeting the Draft Minutes and the Accounts will be posted on our website www.hawridgeandcholesburycommons.org.

**Subscriptions:** Subscriptions for next year fall due at the AGM and we are very grateful to all those of you who choose to pay by **PayPal or by Direct Debit.** It is easy to pay by either of these methods on our website www.hawridgeandcholesburycommons.org under HCCPS Membership. Alternatively, you can pay by **Bank Transfer:** Account Number: 50458015 Sort Code: 20-02-06 Reference: Subs + Payer’s name**. Cash or Cheques** (payable to HCCPS)may be paid to Philip Prettejohn, Barncroft, Vale Farm, Hawridge, Chesham HP5 2UG.

For the 11th year in a row the Committee is recommending that we retain the membership rate at £10 per individual or £20 for a couple (to include children in the family). Despite using our contractor for much more of the work done on the Commons we have been able to cover these costs within budget. Obviously, this situation may change if we have unforeseen expenditure in the future.

**Calendar and cards:** The main reason why we have been able to keep subscriptions so low has been the sale of our popular cards and calendars. This has been made possible by the wonderful images taken by **local photographers**; the fact that since 2013 **Susie Bell** has designed the calendar at no cost to us; **Orbitpress** have continued to print it at the same price for all of that time; and the following sponsors have kindly helped with the printing costs:- **WE Black; Chiltern Motors; Chiltern Velo; Cholesbury- cum- St Leonards Horticultural Society; Christmas Tree Farm; George Brown’s; Full Moon Pub; HG Matthews; James Jolliffe; MT Loos; Orbitpress; Philip Matthews; St John’s Vet’s practice.**

My thanks to each of them for their support in helping keep the Commons beautiful!

**Mailing List:** We constantly try to keep our mailing list up to date. Please be assured that we only keep your details for the purpose of informing you about the Commons and for recording subscriptions in line with our privacy policy[**www.hawridgeandcholesburycommons.org**](http://www.hawridgeandcholesburycommons.org)**.**

**If you no longer wish to have communications from HCCPS please email**[**treasurer.hccps@gmail.com**](mailto:treasurer.hccps@gmail.com)**- subject ‘Unsubscribe’**

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our virtual AGM!

**Lindsay Griffin**