



Epsom Common Association

Est. 1974 Patron:- The Worship the Mayor of Epsom & Ewell

www.epsomcommon.org.uk

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2009

Hello everybody,

Autumn is here again and the 20 cattle, which arrived in early May settled in on our main fenced Grazing Meadow. Shortly afterwards five more cattle arrived and also settled in very quickly but on a new fenced grazing area on the part of the Common known as Horton Heath. Again the lady farmer has been very pleased with the progress of all twenty-five. But of course for us it is the excellent "mowing" that all of them have carried out that is the main benefit. At the moment we expect them to return to their farm towards the end of October.

The Common achieved the requirements, for a third consecutive year, to receive a "Green Flag", and our 2009 one now flies proudly from The Working Men's Club Flagpole.

The EcoVols again spent each Tuesday Summer evening pulling bracken, but by the time you read this they will have already held two of their two day Winter Tasks opening up the banks of Barons & Blakes Ponds. But, we need more help on both the Sundays & the Mondays, can you help on one of them, if so look on the reverse of this page for contact information. We have held five interesting & enjoyable guided walks and I would like to thank our walk leaders for giving their time and for sharing their knowledge with us. It is amazing what you can see on our Common when you know where to look.

In September we took part at the "Horton Country Park Autumn Fair." With the wonderful weather the attendance was very high, this helped us to obtain a good number of new members and sell quite a lot of charcoal.

The final event this year is our Autumn Get Together to be held on 17th November. The first 30 min. of the meeting will be reports from your chairman, your EcoVols Leader (John Turner), and the E.&E. Countryside Team (Stewart Cocker), on what we have jointly achieved this summer, and the plans for the future. This is a good chance for you to ask questions on these matters. The main part of the meeting will be an illustrated talk, with time at the end for some light refreshments and general chat. Kevin Morgan, who is our guest speaker this year, knows the wild life of our Common very well. Along with several other projects, he has carried out the Annual Nesting Bird Surveys, on both Ashteads and our Common for several years. Many of our members cannot spare the time to go on all our guided walks, so, why not come to this meeting. You can have – I hope – an enjoyable as well as informative evening sheltered from the wintry weather outside. After a drink and a chat go home better informed as to life on that place we call "Our Common".

Thank you,

Vic. Hayden (Chairman)

The Wild Life of Epsom Common

An illustrated talk by Kevin Morgan

Tuesday 17th November 2009

Christ Church Hall, Christ Church Road, Epsom

Commencing at 8pm

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE AFTER THE TALK – Doors Open 7.45pm

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY - DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Please note, this walk will start from the Stew Pond Car Park
Wear suitable footwear, and if possible bring a pair of binoculars

Sunday 24th January 2010 – EPSOM COMMON MANAGEMENT WALK

Join Stewart Cocker, our Countryside Team Manager at E&EBC, who will conduct a guided tour visiting a diverse range of habitats & explain how & why Epsom Common needs to be managed. This really is the best opportunity to discuss any queries that you have regarding the management of the Common, and may give you some ideas on fresh areas that you would like to visit when you do have the time.

Please meet at 9:30 a.m.



LAST TASK DATE FOR THE YEAR:

Great Pond – Sunday 15 November & Monday 16 November

We'll be working on the pond margins at the southern tip of the Great Pond to extend the grassy areas and keep the edges clear of scrub and trees for wading birds and other wildlife. Meet at 9.30am daily at the Stew Pond notice board (near the single bar gate).

We're been fortunate to have a few new faces join us this year for our conservation tasks, but our yearly attendance figures look as if they are going to be lower than previous years. When people join the ECA they usually tick the box on the application form to indicate they are interested in helping out on our conservation tasks. So, especially if you've recently joined, do please make a bit of time to come and help with our projects.

Please support our local charcoal project and buy local. ECoVols lumpwood charcoal is perfect for barbecues and at £5.00 a bag represents excellent value. All the timber for our charcoal, usually oak, comes from the management of the common. This involves felling any alien Turkey oak and thinning out excess saplings around any mature English oak specimens to ensure these can grow to their full potential. The felled timber would otherwise go to waste, so converting it to charcoal fulfils a use in the community.

If you don't barbecue but have a garden then why not use our charcoal fines for improving your clay soil, or aerating your compost or as a mulch to keep slugs away from your seedlings and tender plants. It's still only £3.00 a bag, what have you got to lose?

You can buy charcoal and fines direct from the ECA – contact John Turner.

Alternatively they are for sale at:

The Lower Mole Trust, Horton Country Park; The Ranger's Office in Horton Country Park; The Old Moat Garden Centre, Horton Lane and The Ewell Court Garden Centre.

EPSOM COMMON ASSOCIATION

Chairman - Vic Hayden, 27 The Greenway, Epsom KT18 7HX. t: 01372 812399 e: chairperson@epsomcommon.org.uk

Vice Chair & ECOVOLS Leader - John Turner, 10 Hookfield, Epsom KT19 8JG. t: 01372 722580 m: 07729 235559 e: ecovols@epsomcommon.org.uk

Treasurer - Marilyn Day, 78 Manor Green Road, Epsom KT19 8LN. t: 01372 743606

Council Representative - Cllr Mike Richardson, Woodcote Ward

Committee Members (in addition to the above named) - Kathy Belcher (WRA), Cynthea Blunden (Secretary), Stewart Cocker (E&EBC), Frank Golding, David King, Roger Newman, Nick Owen (LMCMP), Tony Quinn, Eileen Taylor.
