



Xxx, by xxx

Dear Member

The AGM is on Monday 3rd June at 7:30pm, I do hope you can join us. We will hold the meeting at the WWF building in Brewery Road. I am enclosing within this newsletter the formal notice of the AGM.

Our speaker this year is Andrew Halstead a long serving trustee and chair of the Estates Management subcommittee. The talk is titled "Heathland's other creatures" – and will look at some of the insects that live in this special habitat.

Returning to the formal matters, we have had one resignation from the Board of Trustees this year. Chris Taylor has decided the time is right for him to retire. Chris has served on the Estates Management subcommittee and also as chair of the Public Relations

subcommittee. During his time Chris spearheaded the production of the new maps that are positioned in car parks and at other locations. I thank Chris and wish him well.

As part of the standard rotation of trustees Elizabeth Cuttle, Paul Downes and Andrew Halstead are standing for re-election, additionally Ron Neale and Paul Robinson are standing for election. I am enclosing short statements in support of those standing for election.

I thank all for their support during another transformative year for the Society.

*Robin Hoyle, Chair
Horsell Common Preservation Society*

HORSELL COMMON PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Company number 06460936

Charity number 1123473

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

To: All members of Horsell Common Preservation Society

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Horsell Common Preservation Society ("the Society") will take place on Monday 3rd June 2019 at WWF-UK, Rufford House, Brewery Road, Woking GU21 4LL at 7.30 pm to undertake the following business.

Ordinary Business

1. To receive and approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Society held on 4th June 2018.
2. To receive and adopt the examined accounts of the Society for the year to 31st December 2018, together with the Trustees'/Directors' Reports and the Independent Examiner's report on those accounts.
3. Following his resignation by rotation to consider and vote upon the re-election of Andrew Halstead, as a director of the Society.
4. Following her resignation by rotation to consider and vote upon the re-election of Elizabeth Cuttle as a director of the Society.
5. Following his resignation by rotation to consider and vote upon the re-election of Paul Downes as a director of the Society.

NOTE: The Articles of Association of the Society state that at each annual general meeting one third of the Directors (or if the number of directors is not three or a multiple of three the number nearest to one third) must retire.

6. To consider and vote upon the appointment of Ron Neale nominated by two members for appointment as a director in accordance with the Articles of Association of the Society.
7. To consider and vote upon the appointment of Paul Robinson nominated by two members for appointment as a director in accordance with the Articles of Association of the Society. At the date of this notice no other nominations have been received. It should be noted that the number of Trustees/Directors is limited to twelve.
8. To appoint JS2 Limited, One Crown Square, Woking, GU 21 6HR independent examiner of the Society, to hold office until the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting of the Society, and to authorise the directors to fix their remuneration.

Following the conclusion of the Ordinary Business set out above, there will be an opportunity for members to raise any other business which may be dealt with as Ordinary Business.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

David Ludlow
Company Secretary
3rd May 2019

Registered Office: Concord House, 165 Church Street East, Woking, Surrey GU21 6HJ

PROXY VOTING: Any member may appoint a proxy (who need not be a member) to vote on his or her behalf in accordance with Article 19 of the Society's Articles of Association (Copy form may be obtained from our website horsellcommon.org.uk). Any such proxy must be deposited at the Society's Registered Office no later than forty-eight hours before the meeting.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

For the year ended 31 December 2018

In previous years' Reports I have set out the ways in which we were pursuing our charitable objectives and providing 'public benefit'. The comments in those reports still hold good and our strategies in 2018 underlined and supported those objectives. The significant happenings and achievements in 2018, most of which are covered in the reports from Public Relations, Estates Management and Finance and Legal sub-committees, were as follows:

1. Further attention has been paid to managing and conserving the heathland and other areas that make up the HCPS estate. The scraping of central areas of Horsell Common to control the dense gorse growth will allow heather seeds to germinate. This drastic looking action, along with the increased number of volunteer working parties, will help maintain the important conservation status of our heathland.

2. The management of the revenue-generating Heather Farm building and supporting infrastructure continues to place additional complexity on the workload imposed on our employees. This workload is supplemented by the directorial team of the charity's management company.
3. The licencing scheme for commercial dog walkers using Horsell and Pyrford Commons came into effect in February 2018. It has been well received and has reduced the number of people walking large numbers of dogs.
4. There is still considerable cause for concern over the proposed housing development on Fair Oaks Airport to the north of the Society's land. The status of this development proposal, which would impact on Horsell Common, remains uncertain.

Robin Hoyle, Chair

ESTATES MANAGEMENT REPORT

For the year ended 31 December 2018

The weather last summer brought some significant challenges for Horsell and Pyrford Commons. Record temperatures and lack of rain caused wet areas to become extremely dry – even heather was showing signs of drought stress by late summer. Fires are a constant hazard under such conditions. Several wildfires did get started but prompt action by the Woking Fire and Rescue service and HCPS staff stopped the damage being too extensive.

Management work required under the Countryside Stewardship Agreement has been carried out over the winter months of 2018-9. This has included scrub removal from heather areas and scraping to create bare ground. The latter work may look unsightly but it creates favourable conditions for ground-nesting solitary bees and wasps, as well as encouraging regeneration of heather in areas that were formerly covered with purple moor grass, bracken and brambles.

Other events and work carried out during 2018 include:

- Paths through the water meadows alongside the Bourne through Mimbridge Meadow and Bourne Fields have been improved by building them up in places that become muddy in wet weather
- Some new scrapes have been made in Bourne Fields, which become shallow pools during the autumn-spring period
- Gaps have been made in some of the belts of mature pine trees on Horsell Common in order to create corridors between areas of heather. When suitably dry, the trunks will be chipped and used as fuel for the heating system at Heather Farm
- The electricity pylons alongside the Muslim Burial Ground/Peace Garden were removed during the summer, with the cables being buried underground. This helps to restore the original appearance of the Grade II listed structure. Some of the heather in the Peace Garden suffered in the drought and will be replaced
- Rotten fence posts around Grasslands have been replaced, allowing the area to be grazed by Belted Galloway cattle. Sheep have been used to graze the Heather Farm wetland area
- The reed bed waste water treatment system at Heather Farm has been revamped and is now operating more effectively
- Bridges over the Bourne have been safety-inspected and repairs carried out where necessary

- Trees along public roads and by tracks on Horsell and Pyrford Commons have been inspected for safety and dealt with where necessary.
- A licencing scheme for commercial dog walkers using Horsell and Pyrford Commons came into effect in February 2018. It has been well received and has reduced the number of people walking large numbers of dogs
- Over the last five years Himalayan balsam, a non-native invasive plant, has been much reduced along the Bourne through Mimbridge Meadow and Bourne Fields to the Island by pulling up the plants in July-August before they shed seeds. Similar work has been carried out along the water courses at Deep Pool meadow and the Mucky Field.
- Fly-tipping continues to be a problem, with garden waste, builders' rubble and domestic goods frequently being dumped by the roads and tracks through the Common. Rough sleepers often take up residence on HCPS land and add to the litter problem.
- Volunteer parties from local businesses and other organisations, such as Lloyds Bank Finance, Neilsons International Pharmaceuticals, Eli Lilly, WWF, LinkAble, Thames Basin Heaths SPA wardens, The Challenge Group, York Road Project, St Andrew's School, Woking 7th Scouts, Duke of Edinburgh award students and Woking People of Faith have helped with scrub clearance and other tasks.
- Regular volunteer working parties are held on the second Sunday in the month during September to March. In addition, Tuesday morning volunteer sessions are now being held throughout the year. The work carried out is mainly removal of pine and birch saplings from the open heather areas, removal of non-native plants, fence repairs and litter picking. More volunteers are always welcome - see <http://www.horsellcommon.org.uk/volunteer/>

In addition to the above, there is all the usual work of removing litter, car park and track maintenance and dog bin emptying. Management of Horsell and Pyrford Commons requires liaison with organisations and services, such as the police, Surrey Fire and Rescue service, Woking Borough Council, local residents' associations, Surrey Wildlife Trust, Natural England, McLaren, English Heritage, the Forestry Commission, Surrey Heathland Project and the Thames Basin Heaths Partnership.

Andrew Halstead, Chair, Estates Management subcommittee

PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT

For the year ended 31 December 2018

During 2018 the Society has provided talks, attended events and produced written content in various media to increase public understanding and appreciation of the HCPS Estate.

Our Estate Manager, Paul Rimmer and Senior Ranger, Rachel Jones have publicised the work of HCPS through our website and very popular Facebook page. Talks have been provided to a wide range of local interest groups, including the Newark Group in Pyrford, Horsell Residents Association, Surrey Gardens Trust, The Ottershaw Society and Elmbridge History Society.

The annual Commemoration Service was held on 15th July at the Peace Garden at the Muslim Burial Ground, attended by Elizabeth Cuttle and Robin Hoyle on behalf of the Society, and was a great success. The Peace Garden was also part of the Heritage Open Days programme during the second and third weekends of September, with Elizabeth, Robin and Hannah Lane in attendance.

Canines on the Common was a special event in 2018 hosted by the Society to support fund raising for the Woking & Sam

Bear Hospices last summer. Local dog walkers and families came to Heather Farm to participate in a 1 or 3 km sponsored dog walk, quiz trail, dog agility competitions, arts and crafts and pop up stands with dog related goodies, expert talks and support from qualified experienced trainers and vets. The Society also provided support to the Thames Basin Heaths Partnership team for Heath Week in late July.

An HCPS volunteer work party was filmed and Rachel Jones was interviewed for a Woking Borough Council-sponsored film as part of the #WEAREWOKING publicity campaign associated with development in the town centre.

New information boards have been installed in the main car parks across the HCPS estate, and have received positive feedback from visitors. We have also produced the latest edition of The Common.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues on the PR Committee for their contributions throughout the year.

Chris Taylor, Chair, Public Relations Committee

Statements from the prospective candidates for election as trustees:

Elizabeth Cuttle

I feel privileged to have been a Trustee for the past ten years and to have had the opportunity to use my environmental knowledge to help with running of HCPS I have also been involved in the care and use of the Peace Garden at the Muslim Burial Ground and have given talks to visiting groups about its history. I seek re-election to use my time and skills to aid the Society and help with ensuring that the Peace Garden is used as a living memorial to those Muslim servicemen who were originally buried there.

Paul Downes

I lived on Horsell Common for over 23 years, adjacent to Heather Farm. I am lucky to have enjoyed the beauty of the Common first hand and appreciate the significant achievements of the Trustees over the years. I am a qualified Chartered Accountant and have supported the Society since my election as a Trustee. I believe I can continue that work and help meet the challenges that the larger enterprise now represents. I have managed a variety of companies in the role of either Chairman or Director and believe that experience can benefit the Society.

Andrew Halstead

I am standing for re-election as a trustee of HCPS. I have been Chairman of the Estates Management subcommittee since 2008 but have been involved with the Common over a much longer period, beginning with participation in winter conservation working parties during the 1970s. Before retirement, I was the Principal Entomologist with the Royal Horticultural Society at Wisley Garden. I continue to be active as an entomologist and have done insect surveys on various parts of the HCPS estate, including Pyrford Common and Heather Farm. Knowledge of the fauna and flora that occur on our various land holdings, from rare to abundant

species, helps to emphasise the value of the various habitats found within the Society's approximately 1000 acre estate and assists management decisions.

Ron Neale

I have lived within walking distance of the Common for 17 years. Now the family have acquired an energetic cockerpool, I find that I am an even more frequent visitor. I am a retired Chartered Surveyor and Property Developer. I became a Trustee in 2012 and became involved with all aspects of the development of Heather Farm and the Wetland. Due to unforeseen personal circumstances, I was compelled to resign 3 years ago, but I have remained an active Director of Heather Farm Limited. My situation dramatically improved, enabling me to seek reinstatement as a Trustee some 12 months ago. I believe my property expertise remains relevant from time to time for the Society, highlighted in particular, for much of last year, when the former tenancy of the Cafe proved to be such an irksome issue, now happily resolved.

Paul Robinson

I have been a regular user of the Common for 20+ years as both a runner and dog owner and on occasions both simultaneously. I have a desire to contribute to and give something back to a fabulous outdoor space that I love so much. I am a passionate lover of fauna and wildlife of which Horsell common has both in abundance. I am a keen fly fisherman and member of wild trout and fishing conservation societies, all of which focus on the improvement and preservation of cleaner rivers, river course management and insect and fauna analysis. I have worked in the insurance industry for 33 years and currently work for Pool Re, a Public Private Partnership and the market leader in UK Terrorism insurance and Terrorism risk insight and risk management.