

THE COMMONS NEWS



Wimbledon
and Putney
Commons

Wimbledon Common Putney Heath Putney Lower Common

Summer 2023



The Newsletter of Wimbledon and Putney Commons

Chairman's Welcome

I have had the immense privilege of chairing this wonderful organisation for over five years. Although each of these years has been unique in terms of the specific challenges and opportunities, most notably the pandemic, all have been underpinned by the same enduring passion and affection that is felt by all for the Commons.

This past year will clearly be remembered as one of collective celebration, commemoration and sorrow. For alongside the long-awaited events marking the Commons' 150th anniversary, we participated in the national celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and then tragically, just three months later, marked the death of the country's longest serving monarch. The recent coronation of King Charles, a man whose commitment to the environment has in so many ways shaped his life, was celebrated through a programme of events that reflected his beliefs in the value of diversity and the importance of service to others.

The past year also saw the completion of a number of projects that marked these important milestones in the history of the Commons, including a bridge upgrade and planting of an orchard in Putney Lower Common as well as a much-needed bridge replacement at the Richard Evans Memorial Playing Fields. All projects were made possible thanks to the generosity of local residents and organisations and we are enormously grateful to them all for their support.

In March we announced with great regret the decision of our Chief Executive, Stephen Bound, to leave the organisation in order to relocate to the Lake District. On behalf of the Conservators, I would like to express our sincere appreciation to Stephen for his commitment over his seven years with WPCC and in particular for his leadership throughout the pandemic. He will be deeply missed by Conservators, staff and all those who had the privilege to work with him.

Our staff are long-serving and totally dedicated to the Commons, and none more so than Bill Rowland, who recently celebrated 40 years with the WPCC team. His description of dancing with the recently crowned Queen as a young consort was the highlight of the speeches at the Platinum Jubilee celebrations.



Diane Neil Mills,
Chairman of the Conservators

Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators

The Ranger's Office,
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Registered Charity: 303167

Trustees:

Diane Neil Mills - Chairman, Elected
Sue Bucknall - Elected
David Hince - Elected
Peter Hirsch - Elected
Michael Johnston - Elected
Peter Shortt - Appointed, MoD
Oliver Bennett OBE - Appointed, Defra
Nigel Ware - Appointed, Home Office

Officers:

Chief Executive - Currently vacant
Paula Graystone, Deputy Clerk & Ranger
Peter Haldane, Conservation & Engagement Officer
Maggie May, Fundraising Manager
Angela Evans-Hill, Executive Assistant &
Communications Officer

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The year also marked the retirement of Ministry of Defence appointed Conservator Michael Rappolt after five distinguished years. The role has now been taken up by Peter Shortt, who brings with him extensive experience with the MoD, as well as expertise in sustainability, and we welcome him to the Board

It was with deep sadness that we learned of the passing of Sir Robert Andrew on 31 January 2023. Sir Robert was one of the longest serving Conservators, being appointed by the Secretary of State for Defence in 1973 and serving continuously until his retirement in 2009 after 36 years of outstanding service. He is remembered with great respect and fondness by the Conservators, staff and the local community.

In closing, I would once again like to express my personal and sincere appreciation to all those who contribute to the upkeep, protection, and safeguarding of the Commons – to our levypayers, our tireless staff, our hard-working Conservators and our armies of volunteers, Friends and donors. It is this community of supporters who make the Commons such a special place and also make the role I am so privileged to hold, a most rewarding one.

Conservators' Annual Open Meeting

8pm, 28 June 2023

In accordance with the Wimbledon and Putney Commons Act 1871, the Annual Open Meeting of the Conservators at which the Annual Report and Accounts are presented to levy-payers will be held on Wednesday 28 June 2023 8.00pm at

The Community Church
Werter Rd,
Putney
SW15 2LL

Further details can be found on our website
wpcc.org.uk/AOM23
or by scanning the QR Code



Commons says goodbye to their Chief Executive

The Commons said farewell to its Chief Executive of two years when Steve Bound left to take up a role in the Lake District in May this year.

Steve joined the organisation in 2016 as Chief Operations Manager, overseeing all the operational activities on the Commons. He was appointed as Acting Chief Executive following the retirement of Simon Lee in 2020, before being formally appointed to the role in June 2021.

Chairman of WPCC, Diane Neil Mills, commented "As Chief Executive, Steve has provided first class leadership for one of the country's most special open spaces and his decision to relocate represents an immense loss for the Commons. He will be missed by Conservators and staff but we wish him well for the future."

At the time of writing, a recruitment process for a new Chief Executive is underway.

New Conservator Peter Shortt

Peter Shortt is the newest of the current Board of Conservators, having been appointed by the Secretary of State for Defence on 1 September 2022.



Peter brings with him a wide range of expertise, particularly in the area of sustainability. He is an experienced venture capitalist and corporate financier with considerable experience in working at the public/private interface, including 14 years working in and with the Ministry of Defence. He is currently Chief Investment Officer of Sustainable Accelerator, which invests in and provides support to companies in the clean tech and sustainability sectors. Prior to this, Peter was a founding director of the Carbon Trust, one of the UK's leading organisations promoting the transition to a sustainable low carbon economy.

In taking up his position Mr Shortt commented: "I am excited and honoured to be appointed a Conservator by the Secretary of State for Defence. The Commons has been a huge part of my life since I first moved to the area in 1982 and remains so to this day. The recent experience of lockdown only underscored that. I hope that my experience of working both with large public sector bodies and small start ups in the sustainability field will enable me to serve the interests of the WPCC and all who use the Commons".

Peter chairs the Commons' Audit and Risk Committee.

The Friends of Wimbledon and Putney Commons

The Friends of Wimbledon and Putney Commons was launched in 2019 to bring together all of those who love the Commons and want to share and celebrate that passion with like-minded people, as well as fundraising to help look after this precious site.

There are now five categories of Friends' membership:

Individual Friend - £30 per year (or £3 per month)
Household Friend - £40 per year (or £4 per month)
Benefactor - £250 per year (or £20 per month)
Patron - £1,000 per year (£85 per month)
Corporate - £5,000 per year (£420 per month)

There are currently some 600 members of the Friends who, together with their families, amount to over a 1,000 people who continue to support the Commons through their membership - our thanks go out to all of you.

Why Support Us? Every path, heathland, bog, stream, pond and woodland has an incalculable value that requires ongoing investment. Without skilled conservation officers, mounted keepers and our very committed staff, our unique Commons would not be as they are today: safe, clean and managed for both visitors and wildlife. That is why every contribution you make, small and large, is so important.

By becoming a Friend of Wimbledon and Putney Commons, you will be playing a crucial role in preserving, protecting and maintaining this unique and special place. As a Friend, you will be invited to attend special events that will provide a unique experience of the Commons amongst those who share your passion and commitment.

Over the last year, the funds raised by the Friends contributed to several projects on the Commons including the restoration of the bridge at Putney Lower Common, the replacement of the wooden footbridge across the Beverley Brook on Wimbledon Common, and the orchard at Putney Lower Common.

The Friends Committee were also instrumental in organising the celebrations to mark the 150th Anniversary of Wimbledon and Putney Commons. After the delay due to the pandemic, the Friends were delighted to hold an Afternoon Tea at the AELTC and a Games Day in May, and were finally able to hold the twice-postponed grand finale – a reception on the Pavilion Terrace at the House of Commons - in July 2022. Several special guests attended the reception including Sir Richard Peek, a direct descendant of Sir Henry Peek, the Chairman of the Wimbledon Common Committee that was so instrumental in the preservation of the Commons, along with descendants of Richardson Evans who secured the Memorial Playing Fields for the Commons. We are grateful to Stephen Hammond MP for hosting the event.

The Friends Committee continues to organise a series of smaller events for its members, including a tour of the Windmill which took place in December 2022, and a Bird Song Walk in April 2023. Future events include a walk/talk about Grand Houses of Rushmere and a conservation management walk with the Commons staff in the Autumn.

If you'd like to join the Friends and help support the Commons, you can find more information on our website wpcc.org.uk/friends



Putney MP, Fleur Anderson, and the Games Day bike riders



Friends' Chairman, Sue Bucknall, and guests at the AELTC.

Nature Notes

The Commons are home to a wide range of wildlife and we are grateful to those who give up their time to monitor and record on our behalf.

The following is a summary of the reports they have provided over the last year.



Firecrest
Mike Young ARPS

We start this report with the sad news of the death of the pen swan on Queensmere in February this year. We know the Queensmere pair are a firm favourite with visitors and many of you have delighted in watching them raise their cygnets over recent years

The cause of death was not clear but there were no injuries so we do know it wasn't as a result of an attack. She was elderly so it is possible that this was down to natural causes through old age. Avian flu cannot be ruled out but as far as we are aware there were no obvious signs that she was ill.

The cob has remained, although he does disappear from time to time and we hope that either he finds a new mate or a new pair take up residence.

Birds

The number of bird species recorded on the Commons dropped to 88 in 2022, down from 95 in 2021, mirroring a national trend in decline. There were no records for autumn and winter visitors such as Redpoll, with scant records for Siskin. Waders such as Woodcock and Snipe also had poor showings although this may be in part due to climate change where warmer winters on the continent means birds do not have to travel so far to escape the harsher weather conditions. But, there is also a lot of good news:

- There is always the chance of seeing something unusual on the Commons and highlights over the last 12 months have included two pairs of breeding Little Grebe at Bluegate, Ring Ouzel, Pied Flycatcher, Little Ringed Plover and Green Sandpiper.
- Two scarce Dartford Warblers were seen on the Commons for the first time and Firecrest are increasing in number and expanding their range. Raven numbers also seem to be increasing.
- The Swallows and Pied Wagtails at the stables also seemed to have a very good year, while Blackcaps maintained their dominance.
- It was a good autumn for passage migrants with several Stonechats moving through along with a supporting cast of Wheatear, Redstart and Whinchat.
- Raptors are now a regular sight with Sparrowhawk, Kestrel and Buzzard breeding on the Commons, and Peregrine regularly flying over. Increasingly in 2023 there have been sightings of Red Kites – a species that is extending its range down the M40 motorway corridor and around the M25 into Greater London.

Moths

Moths are often undervalued as a species but their importance as pollinators cannot be underestimated. A recent report showed that they are more efficient as pollinators than bees – they make fewer visits but can spread the pollen much more quickly. Many moth species are in serious decline in Britain, and this will affect not only pollination but they are also a food source for many other species, including bats and birds.

But again there is good news for the Commons, with nine new moth species recorded out of the total of 432 recorded in 2022. This included one of the UK's largest moths, the Emperor Moth, which is the only moth in the UK that spins a silk cocoon. Day flying moths continue to surprise, with Humming-bird Hawk-moth appearing for the first time this spring.



Emperor Moth

Butterflies

28 species of butterfly were recorded in 2022 - a slight increase on 2021. The cold and wet start to 2023 has certainly delayed the emergence of many of the spring species and there is concern that the long drought in 2022 may have caused problems for many butterflies as their food plants will have suffered – affecting food source for both the caterpillars and adults alike.

Dragonflies and Damselflies

21 species of dragonfly were recorded, up from 9 in 2021, a marked increase but this is due to there being more recorders visiting the Commons. One of these species, Banded Demoiselle, featured in David Attenborough's recent documentary series, 'Wild Isles'. Other notable species included a single Norfolk Hawker, which may have wandered over from the population that lives at the Wetland Centre, and a Keeled Skimmer which is a typical wet heathland species not seen on the Common since 2018.

Woodland Thinning - Ring Barking

As much of the Commons' woodland has developed through a process of natural succession the trees are often tightly spaced together, preventing the growth of new trees and the creation of that important woodland structure. By providing openings within the woodland canopy and letting light down into the woodland floor, there is more opportunity for the growth of the important nectar bearing shrubs and flowering plants which are so vital for invertebrates.

As much of the Commons' woodland has developed through a process of natural succession the trees are often tightly spaced together, preventing the growth of new trees and the creation of that important woodland structure. In order to create diversity, from time to time there is a need for tree thinning to be carried out, particularly in the more heavily shaded areas. This work is linked to another piece of conservation work - managing areas that have been overtaken by Turkey oak. Turkey oak is a non-native ornamental species that was introduced to the UK in the 1700s and is now impacting our native oak populations. Not only is it faster growing but is less valuable to wildlife and a host of the knopper oak gall wasp. This parasite is now starting to impact our native oak trees.

Instead of simply cutting down the trees, leaving a scarred area of woodland, the Commons' Maintenance Team have carried out "ring barking" on selected trees in the woodland behind Curling Pond and at the top of Jerry's Hill.



Ring barked Turkey Oak

Ring barking, which may sometimes be referred to as "girdling", is the removal of a complete band of bark from around a trunk or branch of a tree. It is a traditional method that has been used for centuries as a means of clearing woodland and is often actively encouraged by wildlife conservationists. It creates a mosaic of dead standing trees which will disintegrate over time. It is a natural process similar to a tree dying slowly of disease and it creates a rich and diverse habitat for a wide range of insects and fungi, as well as woodpeckers and other woodland birds. In particular, dead wood is invaluable for the increasingly rare Stag beetle – the presence of Stag beetles on the Commons is a primary reason for our designation as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC).



Tree felling on Friar's Avenue

Tree Safety Works

Tree conservation work is one of the most important tasks carried out by our staff. In such a large and busy open space, the risk of failing trees is something our staff need to be constantly aware of and remedial safety work is a priority job.

While much of the safety work that is carried out on the Commons aims to prolong the health and lifespan of trees, it is not always possible to keep trees that have succumbed to disease or reached a very old age. Where such a tree presents a risk to human life, if there is no way of removing the risk or separating it from potential human contact, retaining the tree on site is not an option.

This is exactly why the tree work was carried out along Friar's Avenue earlier this year, resulting in the felling of a number of heavily pollarded Lombardy poplars (along the boundary of the Richardson Evans Memorial Playing Fields and the heavily used Friars Avenue).

Lombardy poplars are notorious for internal basal decay and the team carried out some work on the trees in 2019 to help prolong their life. However, with cars permanently parked along the whole length of Friar's Avenue and both adult and children's sports taking place at the Playing Fields seven days a week, the only option for maintaining public safety in the area was to fell the poplars. When the trees are cut down, the trunks are left on site as to create the dead wood habitat that is so important for invertebrates.

Sign up for our E-Newsletter

If you'd like to stay up to date with our latest nature news, or be the first to hear about events taking place on the Commons, do please sign up to our e-newsletter. Sent out every six weeks or so, it is a great way to keep in touch and has lots of information on what to look out for on the Commons and also our latest conservation works.

Sign up on our website www.wpcc.org.uk .

Fundraising Update

Bridge Restoration Projects

Two of the five footbridges across the Beverley Brook - which runs through both Wimbledon Common and Putney Lower Common - have received some much needed repair and restoration over the last 12 months.

The green footbridge at Putney Lower Common had become known to locals as the 'wobbly bridge' and in 2021 the decision was taken to close it for safety reasons. The timber sleeper treads had decayed and the steel frame itself needed major repairs. In February 2022 a fundraising appeal was launched to cover the costs of the repairs which amounted to some £15,000. Thanks to donations from local visitors and community groups, staff were delighted when in just three months the funds needed to carry out the repairs had been raised.

The bridge was formally reopened in October 2022 and visitors can once again enjoy the walking loop around the Common, over this bridge along the Brook and back again over 'Tractor Bridge'.

The new bridge has been affectionately named 'Bill's Bridge' in tribute to Bill Rowland, Head Ranger at Putney Lower Common, who has worked for Wimbledon and Putney Commons for 40 years and for the last 8 years has dedicated his time to caring for Putney Lower Common.



New bridge at REMPF

Peatland Discovery

When you think of bogs, images of vast swampy landscapes probably come to mind, so it may come as a surprise to some visitors that Wimbledon and Putney Commons are home to some of the last remaining bogs in London.

Bogs - or peatland habitats – are peat soils that form where vegetation cannot completely decompose due to acidic, waterlogged conditions. It takes 100 years for 10cm of peat to form. In the UK, at least 80% of peatland habitats have been lost or damaged. Healthy peat bogs act as 'carbon sinks' storing huge amounts of carbon. However, damaged bogs dry out and release carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, accelerating climate change. Recovering this habitat is important for climate and nature.

To help us better manage the remaining peatland habitats we applied to the Nature for Climate Peatland Grant Scheme to fund a peatland 'Discovery' project and were delighted when our application was successful. With this Discovery Grant, a feasibility study has been carried out by a specialist in hydro-ecology. The findings and designs will inform our longer term plans to restore the bogs and help fundraise for the restoration phase.



Bill Rowland at "Bill's Bridge"

We'd like to thank Wandsworth Council - Wandsworth Grant Fund, the Woodhouse family, The Miles Trust, the Putney Society and the Friends of Wimbledon and Putney Commons and so many more members of the community for their generous support and helping to bring back the bridge.

The second bridge, across the Brook near the Richardson Evans Memorial Playing Fields, was restored following a fundraising campaign led by the Thames Hare and Hounds running club. The club took on the ambitious task of raising the funds needed to replace the old timber footbridge, seeking private donations and securing grants from grant-funders. The Conservators are grateful to the Thames Hare and Hounds dedication to the cause and also thank the Wimbledon Foundation, Thomas Day School at Putney Vale, RunThrough, London Marathon Charitable Trust and the many generous individuals who provided the funding to make this project possible.

There is a considerable problem with erosion of the bank close to the eastern end of the bridge which, if left, could lead to the undermining of the bridge abutment. As this is a favourite spot for dogs to access the Brook, our Maintenance Team have installed a fence to prevent access there and we will eventually be carrying out work to rebuild and consolidate the bank.

Restoring Queensmere

Queensmere was created to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria in 1897, and it is by far the most popular of the Commons' ponds for visitors.

However, it is far from reaching its potential for wildlife as it is shrouded on all sides by a variety of mature trees and has very little in the way of marginal vegetation. Restoration would improve its ecological value and increase its aesthetic appeal. Initial ideas include the creation of reedbeds, an island for waterfowl, reprofiling of the banks, marginal planting and better footpaths.

The first stage before any work is started is to carry out a survey so that the pond's current condition is fully understood. WPCC is delighted to have received a grant from the Rewild London Fund, supported by the Mayor of London and the London Wildlife Trust, to carry out this initial survey.

Over the next year, staff will be working with an expert in pond ecology and design who will carry out surveys and produce designs that will improve the pond, ensuring it is a more resilient habitat for wildlife whilst remaining an accessible and appealing area for visitors to enjoy.

Orchard at Putney Lower Common

Twelve new fruit trees of different varieties have been planted as part of the Queen's Green Canopy and will serve as a lasting tribute to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's extraordinary service.

The idea to take part in the tree planting initiative was suggested by members of the local community and thanks to their fundraising it then grew, literally, into an orchard. The orchard is formed of three cherry, three pear and six apple trees that have been selected based on advice about which species would best thrive in the impoverished soil conditions at Putney Lower Common. They have also been mulched to help conserve water and maintain temperature.

Traditional orchards are listed as a UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority habitat. They provide a mosaic of habitats that are of immense importance to wildlife, particularly for the nectar source they provide for pollinators and other invertebrates. They are also beautiful in blossom, providing a visually attractive aspect within the natural landscape.

Thank you so much to everyone who has made a donation - we are so grateful for your support for this special project.



Orchard at Putney Lower Common

Wildlife Garden Update

In 2018 we launched a fundraising appeal to raise £20,000 for the creation of a wildlife garden in front of the Ranger's Office. The intention was to create an area for those less mobile to sit and enjoy the flora and fauna of the Commons in one place as well as to provide an educational area for younger visitors. Importantly, the garden would also form a living memorial to Dave Wills, a local bird expert, who sadly passed away in 2017. Dave devoted much of his time to studying the Commons' bird life and produced the annual Commons Bird Report for over 40 years.

The project should have started in early 2020 but with the wet start to the year we delayed it until the spring. Then, of course, there was COVID19 and the subsequent lockdowns which kept our staff busy both managing the increasing number of visitors and the subsequent impact on the Commons. Finally, however, we are delighted to let you know that work is now underway and the pond has been built! Work on the garden will continue over the next 12 months with planting of wildflowers, trees and shrubs to attract our wildlife.

Unfortunately, since we first launched the appeal, costs have risen and we'd like to ask whether, once again, visitors and those who love the Commons could help contribute to transform this little space.

If you would like to make a donation, please visit our Justgiving page here: <https://tinyurl.com/wpccgarden>



Wildlife garden at the Ranger's Office

Footpath Works

In winter 2022, as the paths became waterlogged, WPCC launched a fundraising appeal to improve some of the most popular and well-trodden paths. Improving the paths will not only make the Commons more accessible but will also protect and restore the sensitive habitats that they travel through.

More than 175 visitors have helped to raise over £14,000 towards this work and we have been bowled over by the support. In addition to this we are delighted that South Western Railway have awarded us a grant of £75,000 through their Customer and Communities Improvement Fund towards restoring three paths that are shared cycle routes, helping to improve access for walkers and cyclists.

Thank you so much to everyone who has supported this work. We still need to raise £10,000 to meet our appeal target so if you can please make a donation to help us take the last few steps towards improving the paths.

To find out more about our current appeals, please visit www.wpcc.org.uk/support-us-appeal

NEWSBITES

New donation station at the Windmill Car Park! You can now help care for the Commons by making a donation at our newly installed card-only donation machine in the Windmill car park. When you next visit, please give it a tap!

Art on the Commons

The Art on the Commons competition held as part of our 150th Anniversary celebrations was a huge success and in September 2022 we announced the winner at a "Gallery in the Garage" event here on the Commons.

The overall winner was Chris Chalmers and his stunning January 2022 entry. The competition was inspiring, with over 1500 images submitted throughout the year, and nearly 800 of you voting in the "People's Choice" to choose the overall winner.

The staff and Conservators send a huge thank you to all those who participated – it could not have happened without you!

We are also incredibly grateful to all the local businesses who have supported the Competition throughout the year by providing

prizes, and to Mark Beim at Wimbledon Homes for sponsoring the "Gallery in the Garage"

Many of you who took part asked if we were planning to continue it into 2023. Well, the answer to that is yes we are! This year's competition will run slightly differently in that there will be four quarterly rounds so that we are capturing the seasons. We are half way through the competition and are currently open for entries for the "Summer" round which runs for June, July and August. "Autumn" will follow covering September, October and November.

If you are out and about on the Commons with your camera, why not send your photos in!? Full terms and conditions are on our website www.wpcc.org.uk/artonthecommons.

2023 Events Diary

16-18 June

BioBlitz Weekend of Nature

Bats, Moths, Birds, butterflies, bees and all manner of insects and small mammals to be found and identified. Join our experts for a series of walks around the Commons. This year we will also have a visit from Reptile Events with a selection of snakes for you to meet.

28 June at 8.00pm

Conservators' Annual Open Meeting

The Conservators will present their Accounts and Annual Report for 2022/23. The meeting will be held at the Community Church, Werter Road, Putney - details can be found at on our website: wpcc.org.uk/aom23

05 July at 7.00pm

Summer Evening Walk

A Guided Evening Walk led by our senior staff. Learn about our history and conservation work.

10 September

Commons Open Day

Having been cancelled for the last three years we are delighted that our annual day of fun and merriment here at the Commons is back! Meet the horses, birds of prey, and this year we are delighted to welcome Pedal Power v Parkour. And, of course, not forgetting the Wacky Dog Show! Free entry all day.

Our thanks to Robert Holmes and Co for supporting the Open Day.



01 November

General Open Meeting London Scottish Golf Club

Open meeting with updates from the Conservators and staff.

09 December at 4.00pm

Carols at the Windmill

The Conservators and the Windmill Museum Trustees invite you to join us for carols, mince pies and mulled cider!

**Full details of all the events can be found
on our website:
wpcc.org.uk/events**



Conservators' Election 2024

Every three years there is an election for the five elected Conservators and the next election will take place in March 2024. This is a special opportunity to be instrumental in shaping the future of our Commons - would you be interested in standing for election?

Being a Conservator is rewarding and enjoyable and it's a great way to be involved in the local community. By helping to manage one of south west London's most important public open spaces, serving as a Conservator can expose you to new experiences that can be both diverse and interesting. It can present you with new challenges in balancing the conflicting interests and priorities of all those that use the Commons, as well as protecting the nationally important habitats and wildlife that call the Common home.

To be eligible to stand as a Conservator (Trustee), you must live in the levy area; be named on your local Council's most recent Electoral Register; be proposed and seconded by people who live in the levy area, and meet the legal requirements to become a trustee of a charity.

If you meet these requirements and you have a genuine interest in all aspects of the Commons, are prepared to attend regular Board meetings, ensure the Commons meets its obligations as a charity and commit to ensuring that the Commons remain a natural open space providing an important green lung for south west London, why not consider standing? Full details on the election will be available on our website in the autumn: wpcc.org.uk/election24