



October 2024



Deposit the riches of autumn in your memory bank - the gold of the leaves, the silver of spiders' webs in the early morning dew, the bronze of chestnuts, and ripe, red berries, sparkling like jewels in the sunlight.



Autumn was an important time of year for our predecessors - collecting nature's harvest and preserving it by bottling, pickling and making jam so that the fruits of autumn could be enjoyed through the winter.



Blackberry and apple crumble is still a favourite!



Although we are not now so dependent on seasonal produce, and there are additional methods of preserving it, autumn is still an important time for wildlife.

Animals of all kinds start to prepare for the colder months, and a plentiful harvest is vital to their survival.

There are apple trees across the commons, and the recent spell of wet and windy weather produced windfalls, a feast for birds and small mammals.



Webb's *History of Chislehurst*, published in 1899, describing some of the "most marked and charming features" of Chislehurst Common, refers to "the great quantity of wild rose bushes, completely covered with a wealth of exquisite and delicate flowers".

There are still a few bushes dotted about. The one in the photo above is at Rush Pond.



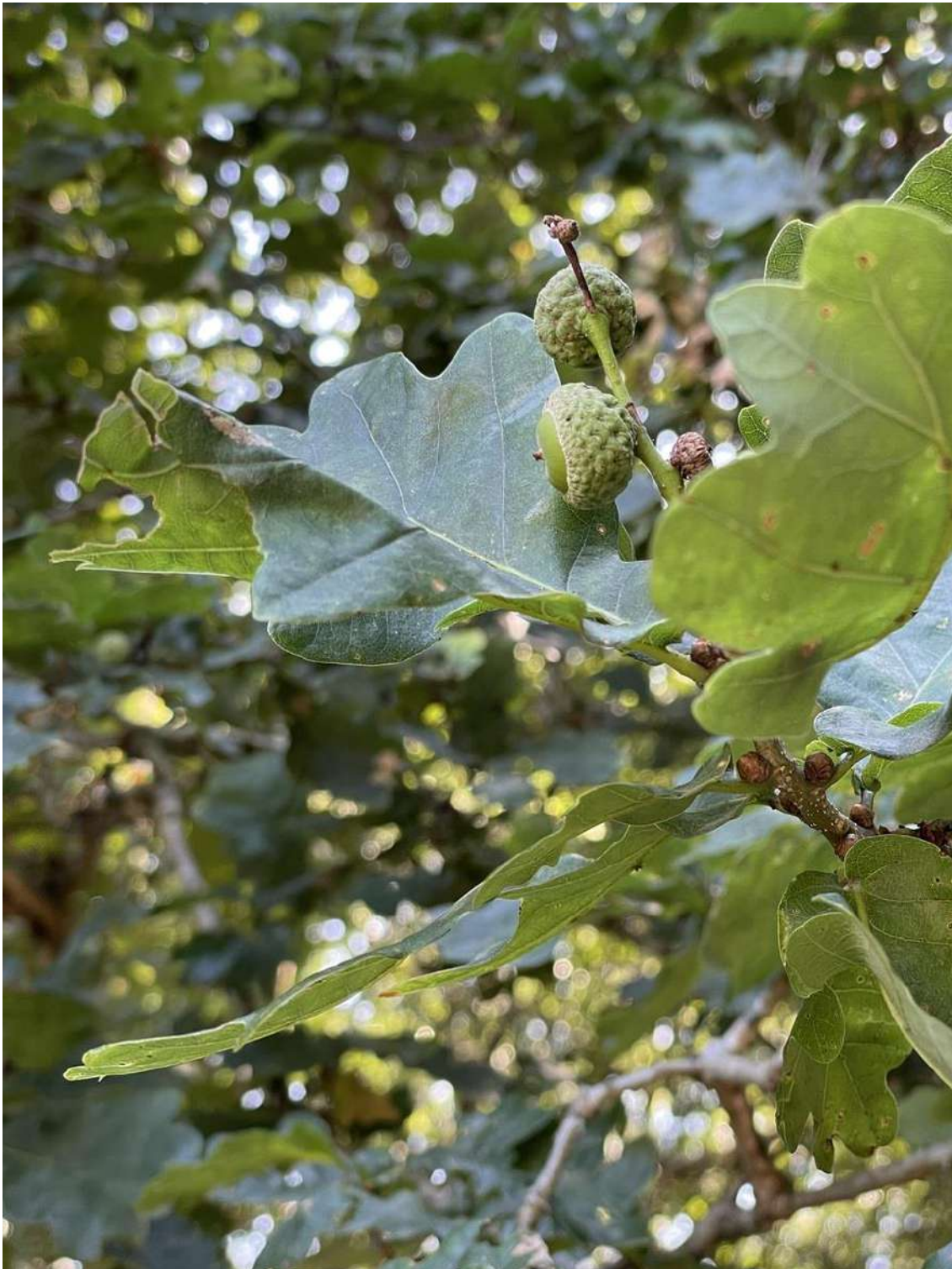
Wild carrot



Teasels

Seed heads like these are an important food source for birds, especially as the

weather gets colder and the daylight hours shorter.



Jays and squirrels are particularly fond of acorns, and bury them as a store for

the winter.



Fairy ring champignons



Beefsteak fungus

Autumn is a good time to look out for fabulous fungi, all part of the cycle of life on the common.



There may be a chill in the air, but it's always worth wrapping up warm and getting out onto our wonderful 180 acres.

This male mandarin duck was displaying his new plumage recently at Rush Pond, after his annual summer moult.

Another example of autumn's riches to store away for later.

Chislehurst Creates



We had a wonderful afternoon at Chislehurst Creates on September 14th. The sun shone, and the common was full of people enjoying the amazing choice of art and craft activities on offer.

Our activity, shown above, was based on the growth rings in a tree.

The success of the event is due to the hard work and creativity of Helen Baylis, who worked throughout the year on the organisation, the development of activities and the sourcing of materials, and to her team.

It was a great event for the community and notable for the number of volunteers who gave their time to support it in so many ways, and to the generosity of the sponsors who made it possible.

All proceeds will be used to support our work of maintaining the commons.

We are very grateful to Helen, and everyone involved.

Family Morning on the Common

In August, we offered three Family Activity Mornings on the common, and another is planned for the October half term.

Details are on the poster below. It is a free event, and there is no need to book. Just drop by and join in!

Family Morning
On Chislehurst Common
Monday 28th October 2024

Come and have fun exploring the local environment!



Free Activities
– hosted by
Chislehurst Commons

Drop in and join us!

between **10 am and 12.30**

Where: on the common between School Road and Church Row, just off Royal Parade

Batty Facts



Art and Craft

- with an autumn theme



Discovery Table

What will you find out?



Children must be accompanied by an adult, and remain their responsibility at all times.

Our Wonderful Keepers and Volunteers – at the Ponds



Lower water levels enabled volunteers to wade across to the island in Rush Pond to remove some of the overhanging foliage.

While this provides cover and perching places for water birds, it also drops leaves into the water which decompose and add unwanted nutrients. Also the shade inhibits the growth of underwater plants.

We aim to maintain a balance so that there are perching places but reduced leaf fall and shade.



The volunteers with waders were also able to remove some of the branches and litter from the bottom, while others worked on the exposed margins.



It was also an opportunity to clean the depth gauge which is used to keep regular recordings of changing water levels.

Our Wonderful Keepers and Volunteers – Grasslands



The grasslands of the commons provide food and shelter for a variety of wildlife.

These two Egyptian geese were pictured foraging in the Loop Road area.



However, to maintain it in good condition, the grass needs to be cut and raked off, usually once a year.

The working party volunteers have had four sessions on this task recently and

disturbed several frogs, which made their way to safety in the undergrowth by leaps and bounds.



Camden Close

**And Finally, Two Pictures with a Hint of
Hallowe'en**



One of the bat boxes constructed and placed by Chris Pond, one of our volunteers, to provide a roost for the pipistrelle bats of the commons.



A sign-eating tree!

The commons here in Chislehurst really are a joy in all seasons, providing a space for recreation, proximity to the natural world, inspiration and interest, and giving us all a pleasant and ever-changing backdrop to our daily lives. We will continue to do our best to maintain and enhance them for present and future generations.



The two commons of Chislehurst, Chislehurst Common and St. Paul's Cray Common, are managed by a Board of Trustees, established under an Act of Parliament.

The Act protects the 180 acres but provides no funding, and the

generosity of local people and the time given by volunteers are vital.

The knowledge and dedication of the two full-time Keepers are invaluable. Everyone else who works to preserve and maintain the area does so voluntarily.

If you would like to support the work of maintaining and enhancing the commons.

you can donate via our website

www.chislehurstcommons.uk

or via PayPal Giving

Thank you!

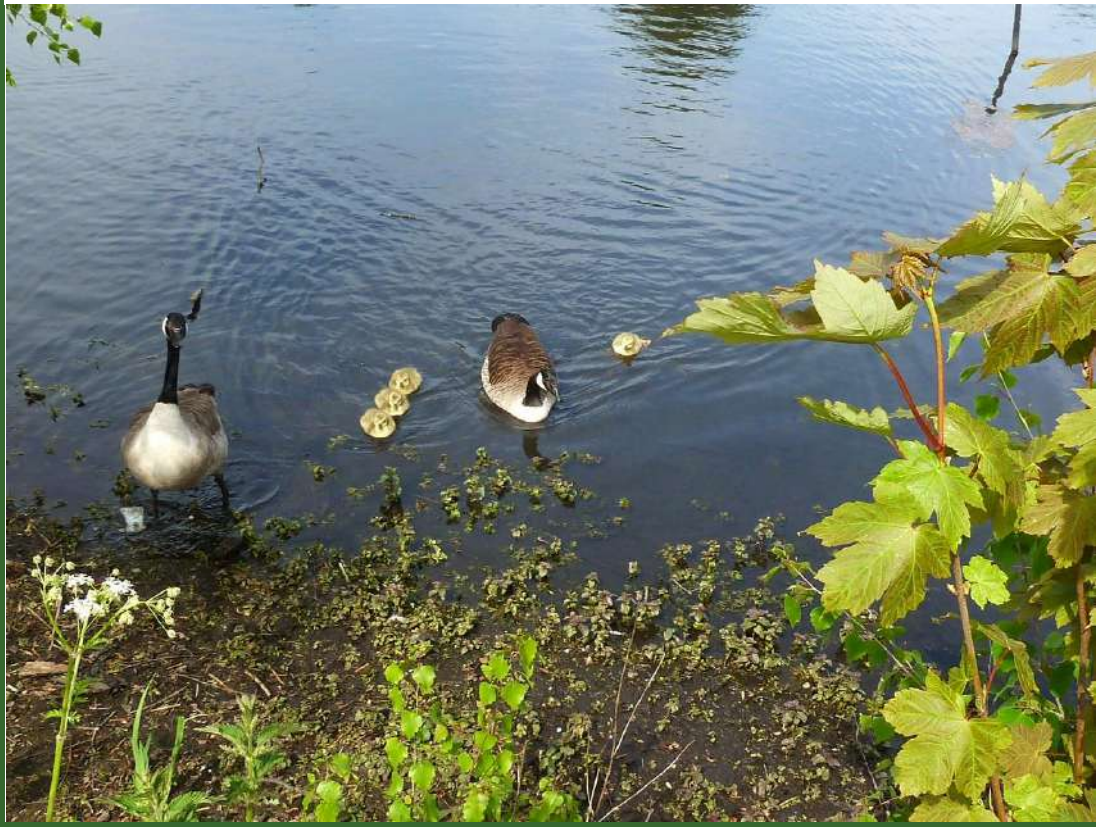
Get your bird seed at Champion Wines.

We are grateful to Champion Wines for stocking packets of seed on our behalf. This food is healthier

for the birds than bread or products made from flour.

All proceeds go to Chislehurst Commons.

**When the birds stop eating, please stop feeding!
Food left on the ground or floating on the water will
attract rats!**



[You can now Support Us when You Shop Online](#)

We are now registered with [easyfundraising](#) which means you can support us when you shop online.

Over 7,000 retailers and services will donate to us when you connect to their websites via [easyfundraising](#) to shop with them – at no extra cost to you, and you earn all your normal loyalty benefits!

All you need to do is sign up and remember to use [easyfundraising](#) to select your shopping site of choice.

It's easy to use and these donations really mount up, so please sign up to support us by clicking [here](#)

Simplified instructions on how to use [easyfundraising](#) can be found by clicking [here](#)



You can also support us by using the easyfundraising app available below

[Google Play](#)

[App Store](#)

[Click here to access a map of the Commons](#)

[Animal Rescue Advice Organisations](#)

Thanks for this month's photos to – Kevin Jennings, Ross Wearn, Charlie Wheeler and Mary Wheeler.

Thanks also to the Editorial Team – Christine Wearn, Ross Wearn and Mary Wheeler.



Chislehurst Commons are proud to display the Green Flag Award logo.

If you would care to donate, please click here

or donate online here

Privacy Policy



Copyright © 2024 Chislehurst Commons, All rights reserved.

You are receiving this email because you opted in via our website

Our mailing address is:

Chislehurst Commons
The Old Fire Station
Hawkwood Lane
Chislehurst, Kent BR7 5PW
United Kingdom

[Add us to your address book](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

