



December 2024





Today we welcome winter, and colourful autumn scenes like the ones above will gradually change as the daylight hours get shorter. Storm Bert last weekend brought down many of the remaining autumn leaves.

We don't yet know what kind of weather December 2024 will bring, but the scenes below show how variable it can be.





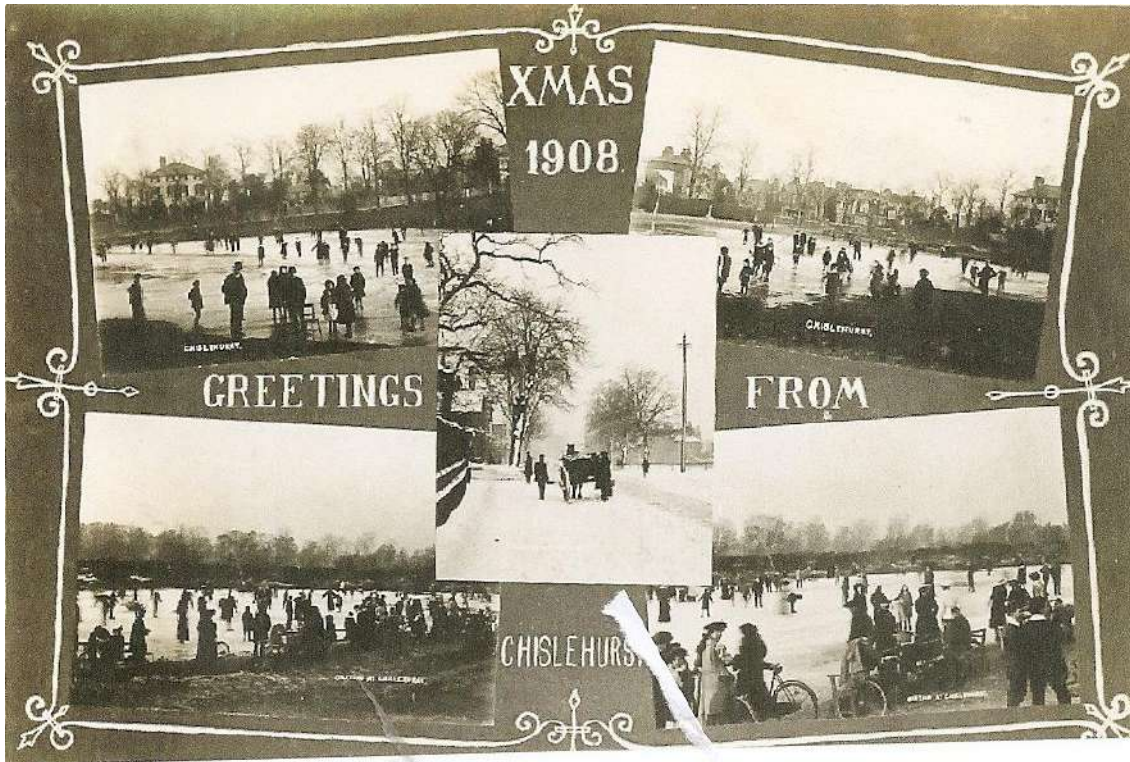
The two photos above were taken on 12th December 2022.

The one below of the working party was taken on the same date in 2023.



Looking further back, we can see from our records and old newspapers that the commons have experienced some very cold spells of winter weather, with ice and snow.

In 1891, the local paper reported that all stretches of water in the area had frozen and that *“the large pond at the Prickend side of Chislehurst Common had been very inefficiently swept, but it was, nevertheless, on both days, crowded to rather too great an extent, for the comfort of the skaters.”*



Snow and ice caused problems in January 1917, but *“London faced arctic conditions with characteristic good humour.”* In fact, *“on the ponds of Chislehurst Common skating by moonlight has been a popular form of recreation.”*

It is worth noting that this was during the First World War, with no end in sight.



This Christmas card was posted in 1921, the year the postage went up to three halfpence for cards. It went down to one penny in 1922, following public protests.

In January 1962, the Head Keeper of the Commons noted that he had “a vast amount of clearing to carry out after the heavy fall of snow which damaged a great number of trees.” In March of the same year, he reported that “a number of trees had still to be cleared in addition to routine work on the Common.” A Commons Keeper’s work is never done!

The local paper of January 1968 reported that, although little damage had been

caused by the recent heavy snow, “*local people had taken advantage of the cold spell to skate on the ponds, and on Saturday the area had been given a gay, Dickensian look by the skaters.*”





Whatever the weather, a walk on our commons here in Chislehurst gives an opportunity to enjoy the beauties and intricacies of nature at first hand, and a walk in winter is no exception, as these two photos show.

So welcome winter, and spring, summer and autumn!

The 180 acres of Chislehurst Commons bring joy in all seasons.

**Christmas Tree Festival at Chislehurst Methodist
Church**

Raising funds for
CASPA
 COMMUNITY AUTISTIC SUPPORT, PRIDE & ADVOCACY
Registered Charity 2502796

THE 2024 CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

CHISLEHURST
METHODIST
CHURCH

Saturday 30th November to Sunday 8th December

Come and visit our Winter Wonderland!

<p>Saturday 30th November 11am – 5pm Dance Show: 2-4pm</p>	<p>Sunday 1st December 12noon – 4pm</p>
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Monday 2nd to Friday 6th December
Open daily 10am – 1pm & 3 – 5pm

Saturday 7th December
10am – 4pm
Bromley Jazz Collective: 2 – 4pm

Sunday 8th December
12noon – 4pm

Chislehurst Methodist Church
 Prince Imperial Road BR7 5LX
 Office: 020 8468 7695
chislehurstmethodistchurch.org.uk
chislehurstmch@gmail.com

@chislehurstmethodistchurch

“Chislehurst Commons – a joy in all seasons” is the title of our entry this year in the Festival at Chislehurst Methodist Church in Prince Imperial Road.

This is always a wonderful event, with so many imaginative interpretations, and we hope you will be able to come along and enjoy it.

The dates and times of opening are on the poster.



Our Wonderful Keepers and Volunteers



Work is continuing in the area at the junction of Watts Lane and Bromley Road, opening a glade by coppicing some trees. This will enable more light to reach the ground and encourage a greater diversity of ground cover.



Meanwhile on the opposite side of Bromley Road, in the Overflow Glade, work to ensure that this valuable area is retained, has continued. It is a mixed area of heather, gorse, grass and wildflowers, and it is important for biodiversity that no

element becomes too dominant. So encroaching saplings, gorse and heather have been selectively removed or trimmed.

More Fantastic Fungi

Last month in the newsletter we explored the world of fantastic fungi and their beguiling names.

This month we have three more for you. As you will see, this time the names are descriptive.



Common parasol
Macrolepiota procera



Hoof fungus
Fomes fomentarius.



Sunny side up
Bolbitius titubans

And Finally – Another Reason to Welcome Winter!

It Brings us Christmas!



Even the woodlands are getting into the Festive spirit – if you look carefully, you might see that this tree is smiling!



*Chislehurst Commons
wish all our friends and
supporters
a very merry Christmas*

The commons here in Chislehurst have survived as a resource for the community for over a thousand years.

They provide a space for recreation, proximity to the natural world, inspiration and interest, and give 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.



With the recent COP29 emphasizing the importance of greenspaces and biodiversity in combating climate change, Chislehurst has another reason to treasure the 180 acres that continue to flourish on its doorstep, as they have for

hundreds of years.

Will you help us to maintain them?

The common land in Chislehurst is protected and managed under an Act of Parliament.

However, the Act made no provision for funding, and we rely on the generosity of local people to help us maintain the area.

We have two full-time Keepers, whose knowledge and dedication are invaluable. Everyone else who works to preserve and maintain our Commons does so voluntarily.

If you would like to support our work,

you can donate via our website

www.chislehurstcommons.uk

or via **[PayPal Giving](#)**

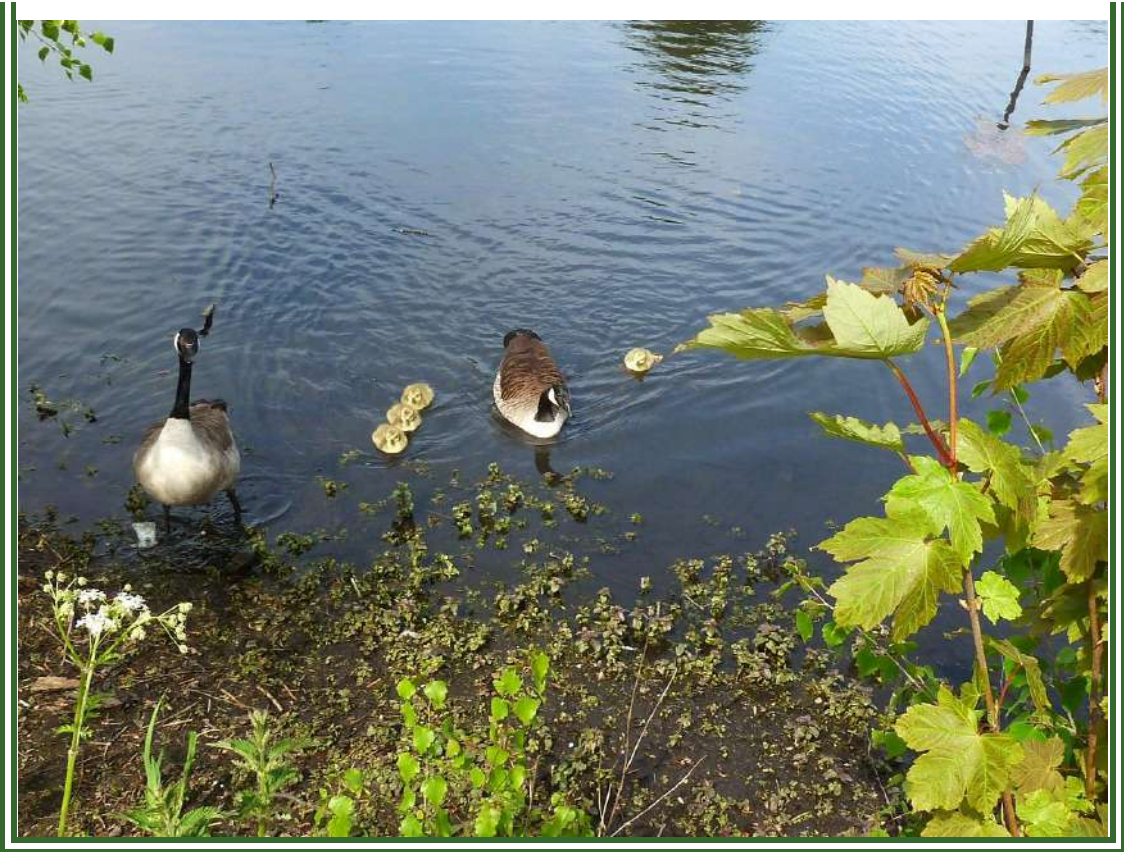
Thank you!

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

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

Animal Rescue Advice Organisations

Thanks for this month's photos to – 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.

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