

“The Commoner”

Last year, as you recall we rejuvenated the Bucklebury Commons Association, and part of the brief was to keep the Commoners abreast of matters arising on the Common, and in particular more information of the Estates Stewardships proposals. Recently information has been a little sparse but we hope to improve communication to all.

The heathland project has gathered momentum this summer and a good deal of work has been carried out in mechanically pulling much of the gorse and birch on the two heathland areas on the south side of the main road.

Helen and I had a meeting with Alasdair Jones-Perrot on Friday and he informs us that more forestry work and timber extraction will commence on Monday, 18th September in Tulls Gully Copse (to the north of Scotland, Lower Common) with the timber stacked in a pile in an area adjacent to Scotland Corner.

This timber is being cleared due to Ash Dieback (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*) and is estimated at about 300 tonnes. The work will take place over 2-3 weeks and then the area will be replanted with broad leave deciduous (probably oak) next spring.

We were also informed that the areas that have been damaged by the haul roads to the east of Bucklewaite will be reinstated. Hopefully, this task will be completed before these areas attract too much attention from illegal offroaders.

There are obviously concerns over the heathland project to the west of Fannys Road. The amount of birch and gorse is now considerable and we have been informed that this will be flailed just once a year. This is a good illustration of how important it will be to maintain the cleared areas and any future expansion needs to be correctly planned and resourced (whether this is by grazing or mechanical means) prior to implementation of additional works.

The Estate is reluctant to announce any further work until the correct funding has been obtained. The Estate's Steward, Alasdair Jones-Perrot is hoping to attend October's meeting of the Bucklebury Parish Council (public meeting) Victory Room 19.45 on Monday 9th October 2023.

Common clearing is programmed for Saturday, 30th September. We meet at 14.00 at the Memorial Hall and everyone is very welcome to assist in clearing the litter and rubbish from the common.

A really big thank you for all those who have helped in the past, not only with litter picking but baking cakes, supplying refreshments and transporting the filled sacks - it is very much appreciated.

We have requested West Berkshire Council to install the Traffic Restriction Orders on the byways commencing 1st October 2023. These run for a six-month period through the winter months. If anyone thinks that there is a byway that needs to be added to the list, please can you contact the Clerk. It may not be possible to add routes at this late date for this year but we can definitely consider and propose new routes for next year.

Jason Allum

Bucklebury Commers Association