

Galleywood Common Association Newsletter April 2025

Chairmans Report

Since our last Newsletter, November 24 issue we have sadly lost a very significant member from our committee, Artin Cornish who passed away during the Christmas period.

Artin as most of our Newsletters know was a very active member for many years, regularly walking the Common as a warden reporting any problems he found to the City Council, also he wrote regular articles in the Newsletter covering the flora and fauna on the Common along with the birds he spotted, which provided interesting reading.

Also, two of our Committee members Patricia, and Malcolm Stuart have indicated that they will be standing down at the AGM.

Patricia has been our very efficient secretary for many years, organising p our meetings and communicating with all members

Malcolm, similarly has served the committee significantly including the role as Chairman for many years. My personal thanks to Both, their active and strong support will be greatly missed.

Since the last Newsletter, the City Council (Parks) have continued to carry out work as indicated in the agreed 10 year plan, with greater emphasis removing overhanging trees and bushes covering the Disused race course..

Also discussions continue with the City Council (Parks) regarding the Proposed new signage Boards to be installed replacing the existing Boards. Hopefully we will see the new boards on the Common very soon.

Activities on The Common

Every year the Galleywood Heritage Centre organises two bird walks on Galleywood Common, both led by Andrew Stroud who is a very knowledgeable member of the Essex Bird Watching Society. The first is held in the Spring in the height of the breeding season and when our resident birds are joined by a large number of migrants many of whom have travelled thousands of miles to get here. The second is held in the Autumn when the summer visitors have departed to warmer climes and many residents have dispersed to other parts of the country. These are replaced by flocks of mixed thrushes including fieldfares and redwings, many from Scandinavia. At the last walk on 29th September around 33 species were seen or heard highlights being a Greater Spotted Woodpecker and a Nuthatch. The picture shows the walkers about to set off from the Heritage Centre.

Susan Wilson - Galleywood Heritage Centre.

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Photo Susan Wilson

Results of work on The Common

Significant clearance of Gorse, Holly, Laurel and the cutting back overhanging trees and encroaching vegetation on both sides of the old Race course has been carried out by CCC volunteers over the autumn and Winter. This has restored full width access to the old race course and opened up the area around the historic Napoleonic earthworks defences to the public.

Last year's work on the regeneration of Heather is showing promising signs of new life.



Photos – John Turkentine

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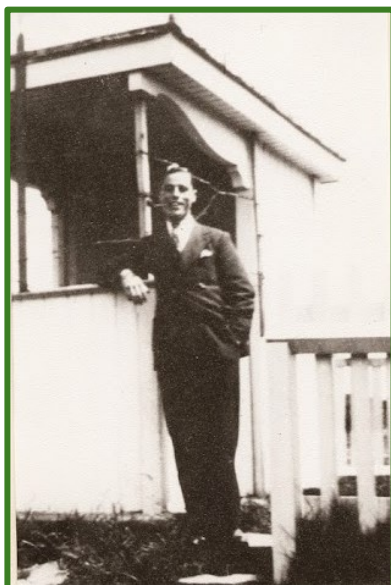
The Finishing Post – Note the ornate Gate to the Original Members enclosure.

Photo taken C 1935 -GHC Archives



Recent re-discovery of the base of Judge's Box. Last seen in 2014!

Photo - John Turkentine



The Judge's Box - on RHS of track leading to Main Car Park entrance

Photo taken C1935 – GHC Archives

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Galleywood Common Association



Secretary Pat Stuart

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Nomination for Position on GCA Committee

Name

Position being applied for on Committee

Proposer

Seconder

Signed & Date

Please return to the Secretary by Monday, March 31st