

Galleywood Common Association

Contact

John Turkentine

Mail; john.turkentine@gmail.com

Mobile; 07976742827

Newsletter July 2025

Chairman's Report

At the recent AGM, held on 3rd April 2025, two long standing Committee Members, Pat and Malcolm Stuart stood down. Chairman Robert Villa, Anthony McQuiggan, Janette Potter, Susan and Brian Blunden, John Laidler and John Turkentine all indicated they were prepared to stand and were re-elected on block.

Two existing Members Andrea French and David Eager and one new member, Anne Pepper expressed their interest in becoming Committee Members and were unanimously elected, on block.

Overview

The Association was founded some 30+ years ago to help to protect the Galleywood Common from the vagaries of continual camping from travelers and serve as a local group of volunteer residents to monitor and report incursions, carryout local litter picks and meet regularly with CBC and latterly CCC to review the use, long term care, maintenance and care of the flora and fauna wild life habitats on Galleywood Common: **Our** Local Nature Reserve.

Over recent years formal meetings with GCA committee representatives and CCC had been replaced by direct reporting of items of concern, often being addressed randomly. However, over the last 12 months or so the clearance of the invading Broom and Holly to encourage Heather and the opening of the over-hanging trees on the old racecourse to improve public access has been welcomed.

This clearance work has been mainly carried out by CCC volunteers and has resulted in the uncovering long forgotten Racecourse artefacts and identified sites of Historic and Heritage interest on The Common.

The New GCA Management Structure

	Chairman Robert Villa	
John Turkentine Website Admin. Newsletter	Susan Blunden Warden	Brain Blunden Honorary Treasurer Room Booking Warden
John Laidler Website Admin. Backup Warden	Janette Potter City Parks Liasson	Anne Pepper
Andrea French	Anthony McQuiggan Archivist	David Eager

The GCA Committee will need to be the eyes/ears 'on the ground' for the future. There is need to widely publicise what we do, and communicate with and involve the younger generations, using all available digital information channels and expanding our embryonic website - <https://e-voice.org.uk/gwca/>

Galleywood Common is something we should all be proud of!

Stop Press

See Park of the Month—[Galleywood](https://loveyourchelmsford.co.uk/park-of-the-month-galleywood-common-local-nature-reserve/) Common local Nature Reserve -

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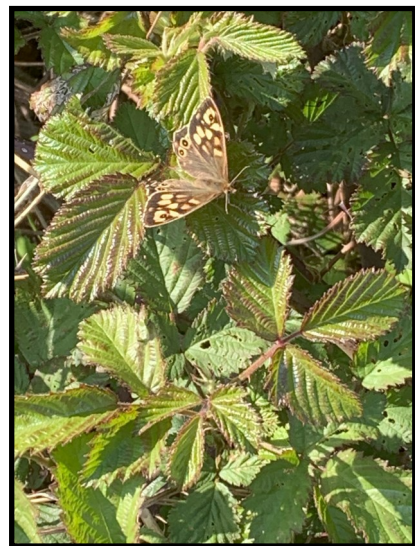
Wardens Report

A successful and educational bird watching walk was held on The Common on 27th April, organised via the Galleywood Heritage Centre. We saw or heard 32 different species of birds, including 4 different birds of prey – Buzzards, Red Kite, Kestrel and Sparrowhawk. Also 4 butterfly species and hares in the adjoining fields.

Photos. Courtesy of John Laidler – site area adjacent to A12 North slip road



Cowslips - Commonly known in Essex as Peggles



Speckled Wood Butterfly



Some Recent events and sightings

An additional notice board has been erected, beside the large Map Board in Church Lane footpath entrance to The Common. CCC regularly insert and update content of their 4 notice boards on the Common.

A young grass snake has been seen swimming in the pond at Galleywood Heritage Centre.

A Common Lizard captured, on video, by an ecologist whilst working on some surveys on Galleywood Common as part of the new CCC management plan draft.



New Noticeboard Church Lane



Woodland Footpath



Harlequin Ladybird



Rotten Post - End of Church Lane



Litter around the cycle bumps area



New Safety Posts near Main Carpark



Rotten Post - Carpark entrance



Old concrete post -awaiting removal



Can you identify this?

A Reminder

The GCA Annual Walk on The Common is on Thursday 3rd July 2025. Meet at the Main Carpark off Margaretting Road at 7.00pm. Bring your cameras and phones. For your Diaries – The Next Committee Meeting will be held on 13th November 2025 and the AGM on 2nd of April 2026.