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Newsletter November 2025

Chairman's Report

A number of Members of the Association met on the evening of 3rd July for the Walk on the Common specifically visiting areas with outstanding issues.

It was noted that requested improvement to the lane leading to the Entrance to the Common from Margaretting Road had not been actioned.

Progress regarding the final design release, production and erection the Signage Boards, is still waited however the adjacent 5th notice board opposite the Church has been installed opposite the Church. Laurel and Gorse clearance by CCC volunteers, work ongoing on going and also progress made regarding Knotweed removal and routine emptying overflowing dog bins.

Chelmsford City Council advised of walkways bridges around P1 Pond where meshwork installed to prevent slippage is worn and lifting and needs replacing. Observed the recently uncovered original Starters hut base for the racecourse, by CCC Volunteers, and noted that safety bollards had now been installed.

Galleywood Parish Council has produced an updated (Third Edition) map, of the Parish Boundary, footpaths, dog bin and litterbin positions; available on the Galleywood Parish Council website and free hardcopy from the Galleywood Parish Council, Galleywood Heritage Centre and Galleywood Library.

GCA members will need to continue to the eyes/ears 'on the ground' into the future. We 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/>

There is still no news on the progress on the outstanding 10year Maintenance plan.

On the positive side a very good working relationship has been established with the CCC volunteer working party supervisors, communicating regularly.

CCC has applied for renewal of the LNR Green Flag, for which GCA have contributed photos and suggestions.

A reminder that the Committee is seeking a Honorary Secretary and Minute taker.

Galleywood Common is something we can and should be proud of!

Event on The Common



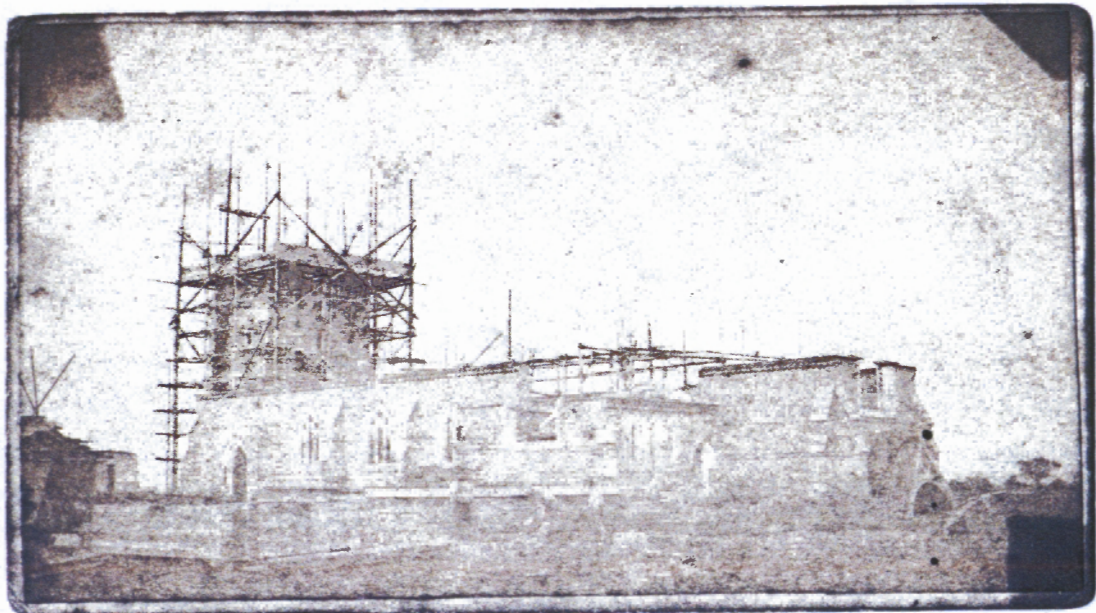
Photo: Courtesy of Alan Pamphilon

On Sunday 12th October 2025 the Galleywood Heritage Centre held its annual autumn bird walk around the common. The 15 walkers spotted 51 different birds, some being heard rather than seen. New for this walk were Ring Necked Parakeets, Collared Doves and a Red Poll. The next walk will be in the Spring.

Susan Wilson

The Building of The Church on The Common

Recently a vintage leather bound photo album was deposited at the Galleywood Heritage Centre. Two small, virtually opaque bromide prints were noted as Galleywood Church and in pencil on the back 1872.



Keen to see in detail what the original images were, and after some scanning at 1,200dpi (dots per inch) and enhancing with Adobe Lightroom software, it appeared that these were photos of partly completed building of the church in 1872. To achieve a modern black and white image one was uploaded to ChatGPT, using a mobile phone. This has opened up a further tool enabling the enhancement of some of the old faded and damaged photos of The Common and Horse Racing held in the GHC Archives.



John Turkentine

Hello from Chelmsford City Parks

Some 15 years ago, as part of our City Parks volunteer programme, we started a parks conservation group for Galleywood Common Local Nature Reserve. The session is led by our two rangers and runs once a month on a Thursday from 10-1pm. We have some 15-20 volunteers at sessions, working to tasks on the Local Nature Reserve (LNR), based on the sites management plan. Primarily Volunteers work to help maintain and restore heather to this beautiful lowland heath site. Many of the parks volunteers are local Galleywood residents.

As part of parks helping to look after the LNR, we have also installed an additional dog bin on the common following a request, undertaken pot hole repairs to car parks, ground reinstatement and recently added a new poster case near to the church. This coming year working with the GCA we will be replacing all the main map signage in the car parks for visitors. We also actively promote the LNR and the Galleywood Heritage Centre on our Love Your Chelmsford Facebook and website.

The team were also very excited to see signs of heather re-generation recently. Conservation volunteers had cut down some of the larger gorse which had become overgrown, following this two-years ago areas near the heather had been scraped (clearing materials from the soil) with the hope that the heather seeds would settle and grow. These areas have continued to be kept clear of other growth by conservation volunteers, and now the patient wait for the right conditions and seed growth has started to show results, with the start of renewed heather growth (pictured). We look forward to seeing this re-generation continue.

Lyn McLay-Kidd and Vicky Alexander



City Parks Volunteers