**Henfield Commons Joint Committee 2020/21**

The Commons Committee (which is a subcommittee of Horsham District Council, owners of the land) is responsible for the management of our three Commons – Henfield, Broadmere and Oreham, as well as for the Tanyard Field, at the western end of Cagefoot Lane.

Sussex Wildlife Trust has awarded Local Wildlife Site (LWS) status to all three commons. LWS is the new name for Site of Nature Conservation Importance.

We are continuing to implement the Kate Ryland Management Plan for Henfield Common though the pandemic has limited our efforts. Work on controlling cattle without hard infrastructure has not yet reached a state allowing us to introduce cattle.

Part of the requirement to retain LWS status is to maintain a healthy and varied insect population. To this end, covid and weather willing, we will be introducing a more varied regime of grass cutting, which involves leaving some uncut for three or four years. This will look untidy but is essential to allowing a good insect population to survive.

During the year we restored the horse trail through the woods. It is fine in dry weather but needs more work to make it useable during wet weather.

Routine maintenance on the other three areas continues. We are investigating why the Cagefoot Lane pond has lost so much water recently.

Andrew Sharp

Committee Chairman

Committee members: Cllrs Andrew Sharp (Chairman), Mike Morgan, Roger Noel, Josh Potts, Elaine Goodyear, Chris Simmonds, Gill Perry, Sheila Matthews, Peter Hudson, Eddie Colgate.